



Over the past two weeks I've had evidence once again how "God works in mysterious ways." It began with the Board of Christian Education meeting and the comment that the Study Group would need a new topic to explore after Easter. It was

decided to find out from the Group what they would like to study.

The next day was Valentine's Day and the horrible massacre at the high school in Florida. It was easy then for the Group to decide the next evening they wanted to explore gun violence and how the church should respond. It was left up to me to find study material, which isn't as easy as you might think. But it was this time.

The very next day, maybe 18 hours after that decision was made, I opened an envelope from the Fairhaven Community in Upper Sandusky. (That's a United Church Homes community similar to Parkvue.) Inside was a large orange heart with a note saying the residents "recently completed the *Faith vs Fear - a faith response to gun violence* UCC Bible Study. For Valentine's Day, our response is to send orange hearts, the color of gun violence awareness, to show our choice to make a difference and to choose love over fear! All hearts have been colored by residents. Blessings!"

I immediately went online and downloaded the material and began wondering how we might choose to make a difference after we completed it. Apparently, God isn't letting us wait until then.

Just a few days later I received a call from a local pastor who had just heard that cities all over the country were hosting March for Our Lives rallies on March 24th in conjunction with what the Parkland students are doing in Washington D.C. that day. "That would be a great project for your Center for Peace & Understanding," he said.

One thing led to another and we have now scheduled a rally with the City, are promoting the event and looking for volunteers to help. Details are still being worked out, but a tentative plan is to begin at 10:00 a.m. with a few speeches at Schade-Mylander Plaza, then march to the church where we will have food and informational tables set up downstairs.

Please spread the word, especially to students and teachers. There is a lot of work involved, so please let me know how you will help.

Shalom, Rev. Lenore 

WHAT'S GOING ON CONTINUED

The Peace Gathering: The next meeting is Thursday, May 31st since it will now only meet on the fifth Thursday of the month. Since the group will not be meeting as often, Rev. Lenore will send out a mass email newsletter each month.

Other Business: Next year for our 200th Anniversary we will be planning a Peace Rally for September 21st and a presentation about our involvement in the Underground Railroad in February for Black History Month.

Respectfully submitted,
Phyllis Bottoms

Board of Elders Joy Berquist & Chris Michaels, Co-Chairs

Friends and family of First Congregational Church:

As I sit here and write this article I have taken some time to reflect on what is happening around us. Even though we have had a little bit of quiet time in our church lives we have now entered into a very profound time of our lives where we follow the teachings of Jesus on his journey to the cross to be crucified for our sins. We started that journey with our Ash Wednesday service, and then by attending the mid-week Lenten services at our sister churches with the first one being held at our church on February 21st.

I would like to thank Harry Boguszewski for making the soup for our mid-week Lenten service and the ladies from First Presbyterian for making the sandwiches. I would also like to thank Joy Berquist for setting up for communion and then helping me serve it. I would also like to thank Angela Williams, Dee Dee Swartz, and Karen Michaels for helping with the Ash Wednesday service since I was not able to attend.

I would like to congratulate Andy Nappi for becoming the liaison for the Elders to the Leadership Team.

Sincerely,
Chris Michaels, Elders Co-Chairperson

Board of Mission & Outreach Barb Petersen - Chairperson

Please see the back cover for information on the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering we will be taking this month.



REPORTS FROM OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM AND BOARDS

The Leadership Team has begun planning for the church's 200th anniversary next year. They welcome your suggestions for ways to celebrate throughout the year. They have also established an Anniversary Fund to help cover expenses involved in marking this historic event, such as the updating and publishing of Rev. Lenore's history of the church. You may make a donation at any time, just be sure to indicate that it is for the Anniversary Fund.

Christian Education

Jacki Warren - Chairperson

Jacki Warren, Phyllis Bottoms and Patsy Hicks met with Rev. Lenore on Tuesday, February 13th. Debbi Keller was absent.

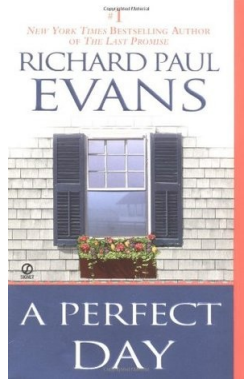
Sunday School: There will be no Sunday School on Easter. Rev. Lenore will have a special time with the children during worship. We discussed trying to have a "singing" time with the class, but that has not been resolved yet.

Book Club: Good participation and discussions continue. The April book will be The Perfect Day or The Boys in the Boat. There was a lengthy discussion about books that have not been returned. The church may have to pay for them. This could be quite costly.

Study Group: Will be concluding the "White Privilege" study material (2/15). It was suggested that we might want to reoffer it at another time and also the discussion of Jim Wallis' book, America's Original Sin. The group will begin a Lenten Bible Study (2/22) that correlates with the Wednesday Community Lenten worship services. After that, what's next? The group itself will discuss what they want to do at a future meeting.

In response to the discussion about low-income families needing affordable housing, Joy offered to do a presentation in April at church, open to the public, about the many options available to those who for those who are interested in home ownership, but think they can't afford it. All we would do is host and promote it (sponsored by the Center for Peace & Understanding).

The next selection for the **Book Club**, to be distributed at the March 2nd meeting, is *A Perfect Day* by Richard Paul Evans. A favorite of the Club, he offers another wonderful tale about the importance of love and family. Evans draws from his own knowledge of being catapulted into best-sellerdom in this moving tale of a man who finds success and then discovers that other things in his life may be more important. Copies are available from the church office.



The **Supper Club** will gather at Longhorn Steak House on Tuesday, March 6th, at 6:00 p.m.. Reservations are required so please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board in the back of the sanctuary.

Community Mid-Week Lenten Services

March 7 - Parkvue Place (3800 Boardwalk Blvd.)

Preacher - Rev. Lenore Kure

March 14 - First Faith Community Church (225 E. Jefferson St.)

Preacher - Rev. Doug Winner

March 21 - St. Stephen UCC (905 E. Perkins Ave.)

Preacher - TBA

The meal is at 6:00 p.m., followed by the service at 6:45 p.m.

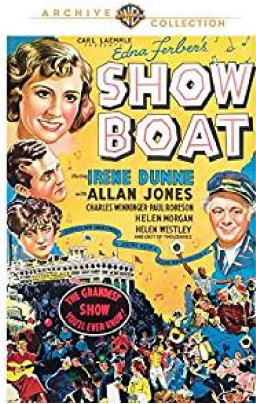
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS

Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead an hour before you go to bed on March 10th!



Rev. Lenore is taking vacation time March 19-25. If you should have a pastoral emergency during that time, please call Rev. Bob Bottoms at 419-271-0086. He will be preaching on March 25th, Passion/Palm Sunday.

MOVIE NIGHT



This month's featured film is the 1936 production of *Showboat*, Edna Ferber's classic tale of life and love among a theatrical troupe on a Mississippi river boat. Show time is 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 20th.

According to a review on Amazon, "this is the best and most faithful of three screen versions of the Jerome Kern-Oscar Hammerstein II musical. A splendid, indeed definitive cast features Irene Dunne as the lovely Magnolia, fated to fall for Allan Jones'

dashing riverboat gambler, Gaylord Ravenal. It is their turbulent romance and Magnolia's growth from a shy guileless girl to a mature star of the stage that form the core of the story."

GAME NIGHT

Game Night is Tuesday, March 27th at 7:00 p.m.. Everyone is asked to bring a favorite game and a snack. Beverages will be provided. All games are welcome. Please contact Tim Work with any questions or suggestions at 419-271-2227.

AN INVITATION

The Women of First Faith Community Church (225 E. Jefferson St.) invite you to their 49th annual Maundy Thursday Breakfast, at 9:30 a.m. on March 29th. In addition to fellowship and food, the morning will feature a program titled "Love Letters." Please call the church office at 419-625-8247 between 9:00 a.m. and noon for reservations. Reservations must be in by Monday, 26th.

Maundy Thursday Service

Many people say this is their favorite worship service all year. We begin with a simple meal at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Soup will be provided. Please bring a salad or finger food to share. Following the meal, at 6:45, we will worship in the Boardman Room. This somber service ends in total silence and darkness.



Harry Boguszewski, Teresa Brooks, Vicki Deissler, Steve Easterday, Kim Edmunds, Harvey Heys, Paula & Roger Horton, Cameron & Jacob Meadows, McKenzie, Bill Michaels, Kaitlyn Nemeth, Amelia Oates, Sebastian Palmucci, Tom Surdyk, Christine & John Vroman, and the Brazee, Baker, Lavelle, Mork and Weiland Families

Homebound: Ruth Baker, Anne Johnstone, Dot Malinovsky, Dorothy Moore, Elmeda Schwartz

We extend our sympathy to Karen Mork and family on the death of her father, Ross Brazee February 24th.

EASTER FLOWERS

It's time to order Easter plants to enhance our Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 1st. Daffodils, Hyacinths, Tulips and Easter Lilies are available for \$9.50 each.

Please complete this form and return it to the church office by Sunday, March 18th.

Name: _____

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Plant & Quantity: | Daffodil _____ | Lily _____ |
| | Tulip _____ | Hyacinth _____ |
| | Red _____ | Blue _____ |
| | Pink _____ | Pink _____ |
| | Blue _____ | |

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

I wish to take my plant home after the Easter Service _____

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

(Name)

We have received words of appreciation from Community Youth Mentoring (formerly Big Brothers, Big Sisters) for our quarterly donation, and from the Pioneer Committee for our donation for the Martin Luther King Jr. bust that will be placed in Freedom Park next month.



SUMMER CHURCH CAMP

It's time to start thinking about church camp, and don't think that it's just for kids! The Ohio Conference offers something for everyone. Information can be found on the website: www.journeythehills.org. The church will pay a portion of the fee, so if you and/or your child or grandchild are interested, please talk to Jacki Warren, Chair of the Board of Christian Education. Registrations postmarked by April 15th receive a discount.



Our youth members have just completed a team task of creating a robot made of recycled materials and they have had so much fun through the process. Thank you for any donations that have been contributed. Our next event for March will be a continuation of learning about using recycled materials creatively.

On March 2nd at 6:00 p.m. Club members will be having a Recycled Fashion Show. Members are designing outfits made from trash bags, paper bags, toilet paper rolls, tissue and other materials.

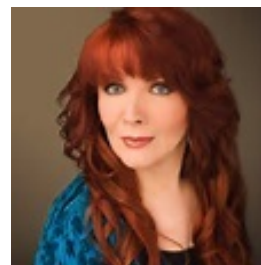
Spring break for the Sandusky City Schools will be March 26th-30th. Our hours of operation during that time have not yet been determined.

We are accepting donations for making Easter baskets for our youth. Any contribution will be greatly appreciated!

Thank you kindly,

Sheila Graves, Youth Unit Director, BGC

The Center for Peace & Understanding is hosting a March for Our Lives rally March 24th in conjunction with similar events being held all over the country that day. It will begin at 10:00 a.m. at Schade-Mylander Plaza. Other details are still being worked out. Help will be needed that day, as well as now when plans are being made. Talk to Rev. Lenore or Rev. Bob, if you are willing to lend a hand.



The North Coast Men's Chorus 30th Anniversary Concert will feature Maureen McGovern on Saturday, March 24th at 8:00 p.m. at the State Theatre - Playhouse Square in Cleveland. See the bulletin board or call 216-556-0590 for more information and ticket prices. Glenn Gast is a member of the Chorus.

SAVE THE DATE - Sunday, April 8 - Bowl for Kids Sake



| | |
|--------------------------|------|
| Trudy Anderson | 3/3 |
| Marv Keller | 3/4 |
| 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 |

