



FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

APRIL 2018



It is said that a picture is worth a thousand words. So, please enjoy this, the longest newsletter article I've ever "written!"
Shalom , Rev. Lenore

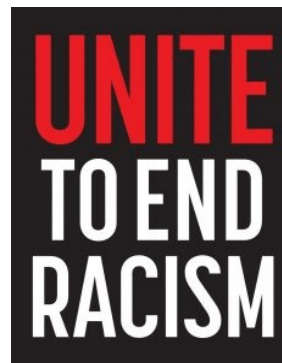


Contingent of Eight Headed to D.C. for Massive Rally

Glenn Gast, Gene Finnegan, Rev. Lenore, Sue Nottke, John Rainey, Tim Work and our St. Stephen friends Ruth Novak and Jo Miller are traveling to Washington to participate in a Rally to End Racism on April 4th (the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.). This is the beginning of a sweeping initiative by the National Council of Churches to end racism that will unfold over several years. The initiative is designed to discover and declare the complicity of the mainline church in perpetuating racism.

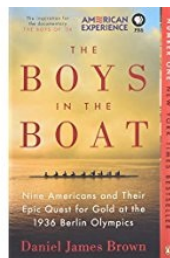
Some of them will talk about their experience at the Thursday, April 5th, Study Group prior to the viewing of the movie *12 Years A Slave*. All are welcome to join them at 6:30 p.m. in the Boardman Room.

The film is based on an incredible true story of a free black man from upstate New York being abducted and sold into slavery. He struggles for 12 years to stay alive and retain his dignity. Then a chance meeting with a Canadian abolitionist alters his life forever.



APRIL STUDY GROUP SESSIONS

Following the session described above, the Group will begin a five-part study, *Fear vs. Faith: A Faith Response to Gun Violence*. While exploring the topic members will also discuss the speeches presented by the students at the March for Our Lives event March 24th. All are welcome. They meet Thursday evenings at 7:00 in the Boardman Room. See Rev. Lenore for study materials.



The next selection for the **Book Club**, to be distributed at the April 6th meeting, is *The Boys In The Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics* by Daniel James Brown. This is a fast-paced and emotional nonfiction about determination, bonds built by teamwork, and what it takes to achieve glory. Copies available from the church office.



Dream of owning a home, but think you can't afford it?

Come to the Homebuyer Seminar April 7th

Find out how to make that dream a reality.



While studying white privilege and racism, Study Group participants learned that Sandusky has an unusually high percentage of rental properties. According to Joy Berquist, church member and local realtor, many renters pay more for monthly rent than they would for a mortgage payment because they don't think they can afford to buy a home.

People in such a predicament are often unaware of the home buying programs available to them, and the steps to take to home ownership. For that reason Joy has organized a Homebuyer Seminar through our Center for Peace & Understanding to be held at the church April 7th from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m..

Flyers are available at the back of the sanctuary. Please share one with anyone you think might benefit from attending.

Hello friends and family of First Congregational UCC.!

It's your friendly bowling captain Chris Michaels reminding you that Bowl for Kid's sake which is now called Bowl for Kids Mentoring will take place on April 8th at Cedar Lanes. We are scheduled to bowl from 12:30 to 1:45 so if you want to bowl and want a donation collection page, contact me after Sunday services or call me at 419-366-4729.

If you don't want to bowl but want to support church members who are bowling, please see them or me. On April 8th I will stay after service until 12 noon or so and then I will head out to get us registered to bowl so we know what lanes we are on and all you will have to do is get your shoes and bowling ball or balls, depending how many you use to bowl.

Sincerely Your Bowling Captain,
Chris Michaels



SUPPER CLUB

Because several of the regular participants will be in Washington on the usual meeting night, this month Supper Club will be held on Wednesday, April 11th. We will meet at Mekong Restaurant at 6:00 p.m.. Please sign up on the back bulletin board in the sanctuary.

After the very successful March for Our Lives event, and the interest in our **Center for Peace & Understanding** it generated, it's time to establish the Center as a non-profit separate from the church. This will make it easier to get grants and increase its appeal to non-religious people.

On Sunday, April 15th at 4:00 p.m. there will be a meeting at the church to begin this process. If you, or anyone you know, is interested in this important work, please come or let Rev. Lenore know that you want to help, but aren't available that day.



Thoroughly Modern Millie will be the film for Movie Night, April 17th. This musical-romantic comedy stars Julie Andrews as a naive young woman who finds herself in the midst of a series of madcap adventures when she sets her sights on marrying her wealthy boss. Bring a friend and enjoy the laughs! Showtime is 7:00 p.m.. Popcorn provided.



Game Night is Tuesday, April 24th at 7:00 p.m.. Bring a favorite game or play one provided. Bring a snack to share. Please contact Tim Work with any questions.

The Sandusky Choral Society will present their annual Spring concerts on April 13th and 15th. More information will be available in the Sunday bulletin announcements.

SHORELINE SPEAKERS AND SPONSORS

At the end of next month we will begin our services down at Shoreline Park so it's time to find speakers and sponsors. If you know of anyone, including yourself, who would be willing to share how God's love has impacted their life, please let Rev. Lenore know and she will follow up.

To help defray expenses, we are again seeking sponsors. For \$100 their business card size ad will be placed on the back of the worship bulletin for all 15 of the Shoreline services. The ad copy needs to be submitted to the church office as soon as possible.



BIRTHDAYS

Patsy Hicks	4/1
Paul Fries	4/3
Harry Boguszewski	4/5
Debbi Keller	4/17
Eric Warren	4/20
Dot Malinovsky	4/27



Harry Boguszewski, Jean Brazee, Pat & David Bursiel, Brad Gilchrist, Mike Graham, Harvey Heys, Laszlo Katko, Peggy & Bernie Mitchell, Jack Neese, Geoff Oglesby, Billy Pifer, Mike Ryan, Rev. Stephen Szilagyi, Darlene Younce, Kathie & the Easterday Family, Dave Pinkman & Family, the Ambrose Family and the families of the National Guard airman killed in a helicopter crash

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



We received a letter of thanks from Marty Siegel for the vitamins we collected and the funds to ship them to the Good Samaritan Home in Ukraine. In total, she sent 31 pounds of vitamins.



**Nette & Kathie,
Welcome to the Family!**

Sunday, March 11th, Kathie Still and Nette Simon officially joined the church. Having recently moved to Huron from Wooster, they transferred their membership from Central Christian Church. We now look forward to their wedding on September 16th.



Greetings!

I just want to share that the Boys & Girls Club will be open for the school break which begins on March 26-30th. Our hours of operation will be 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. We are closed on March 29 and 30th.

As always, we are hoping for volunteers to assist the youth with homework and arts/crafts. We are very thankful for all our community volunteers! I would like to say that our member numbers are increasing weekly! We are excited yet desiring for warm weather to be able to release their energy.

Thank you sincerely, Sheila Graves, B&GC Youth Director

Directory Update

Jud Brandes

11 Slade Ave. Apt. 810

Pikesville, MD 21208-5211



REPORTS FROM OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM AND BOARDS

Mark your calendar - the Leadership Team has set the date for our 200th Anniversary Luncheon. It will follow worship on Sunday, May 21st, 2019. That gives you more than a year to make plans to be there. No other details are available yet.

Christian Education

Jacki Warren - Chairperson

Members Jacki Warren, Phyllis Bottoms and Patsy Hicks met with Rev. Lenore on Tuesday, March 6, 2018. Debbi Keller was absent.

Sunday School: There will be no class on Easter Sunday. Rev. Lenore will have a special time with any children present. The last Sunday of the month the children use the Peace Room.

Book Club: There continues to be great participation with a good discussion of the book about Billy Graham. No more of the missing books have been recovered. The next read is The Perfect Day, a lighter novel, and then The Boys in the Boat. Some members might benefit from a book holder for the bigger, heavier books.

Study Group: Will be wrapping up the Lenten Bible Study, Thy Will Be Done, on Thursday March 22nd. See the Unite to End Racism article for what will happen in April.

Peace and Understanding Group: Rev. Lenore sent out a February newsletter to about 70 people to keep them informed of events since they are now meeting on the 5th Tuesdays.

There was a meeting at First Congregational UCC on Sunday, March 4th of students (who initiated it), a teacher and any others interested in a March For Our Lives event in Sandusky on Saturday, March 24th. This will be in conjunction with the national event. This will be a secular event not an official school project or church event.

The Peace Center is playing a supporting role. More information will be forthcoming.

Someone with experience forming a nonprofit entity contacted Rev. Lenore and is willing to help us when we are ready. The Lang Trust (along with a grant from Northwest Association) is funding bringing an Anne Frank exhibit to Sandusky in February 2019.

Bob Bottoms has produced a sample of possible stationery for The Center for Peace & Understanding.

The Homebuyer Seminar that Joy will lead here at the church is planned for Saturday, April 7th.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, April 3, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Phyllis Bottoms

Board of Elders

Joy Berquist & Chris Michaels, Co-Chairs

Friends and Family of First Congregational UCC:

As I sit here and write this article I can't believe that it is April already. Where is this year going? April 1st is both Easter Sunday and April Fool's day. Tell me God doesn't have a sense of humor! Then on April 8th it's Holy Humor Sunday and some of our church members are participating in the Bowl for Kids Mentoring at 12:30 at Cedar Lanes.

I would like to thank Karen Michaels, Jeanne Gilbert, and Andy Nappi for helping with communion. Karen helped set up the communion ware and with the help of Jeanne and Andy, washed the communion glasses. Andy also helped serve communion along with me.

I would also like to thank everyone who bought flowers for the altar on Easter Sunday to make it look so beautiful.

Sincerely,

Chris Michaels, Co-chairperson of the Board of Elders

Board of Mission & Outreach

Barb Petersen - Chairperson

The Board wishes to thank everyone who contributed to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering in March. We collected \$431.

LAUGHS ABOUND IN APRIL

Easter Sunday ~ April Fools' Day Celebrating the Greatest Joke of All Time



This year Easter falls on April 1st, giving us the opportunity to acknowledge God's great joke on Jesus' enemies on what is traditionally known as April Fools' Day. They thought they had killed Jesus and were rid of him forever. But God resurrected him and he continues to influence the world today, more than 2000 years later! Come and celebrate with us at our 10:00 a.m. service.

April 8th ~ Holy Humor Sunday Holy Cow, The Easter Celebration Continues!

Following the tradition of the Early Church for the Sunday after Easter, fun will be the main ingredient in our light-hearted worship this day. Please wear something silly and come prepared with a joke or two to share during the offering time. For fellowship time we will enjoy black cows (root beer floats).



