



July/August 2018



Someone suggested I write about the history of our Shoreline worship services since very few people in the congregation today were part of the church back in 1999. That's when we began the 8:00 a.m. Sunday services we hold in the pavilion at Shoreline Park from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. Great idea!

First a little background: Before I was called to serve First Congregational, once each summer a regular worship service was cancelled and everyone was invited to worship aboard the Emerald Empress as it cruised around Cedar Point. These church cruises were a popular weekly event for both townies and tourists. The preachers were local pastors and the offering went to United Way charities. We continued that tradition the first two years I was here.

In 1998, when the boat was sold at the end of the season, we were all disappointed, and wondered how to continue worshipping outdoors once each summer. It was suggested holding a service at one of the City parks. I honestly can't recall how that idea of hosting one service expanded into doing it for the entire summer and inviting the community, but that's how it was from the beginning.

Realizing this would increase my work load (not to mention necessitating getting up very early Sunday morning), I agreed to lead the service, but not to deliver a sermon every week. Speakers from all walks of life would be invited to share their personal faith story using the topic "How the awesome love of God has impacted my life." In my opinion, over the years that has proven to be more inspirational than any pastor's sermon! From recovering addicts, to cyclists traveling across the country to raise money for cancer research, and everything in-between we have laughed and cried as these incredible stories were shared.

Wanting this to be both an evangelism and mission outreach, it was decided to donate any money collected to charity. From that came the idea of letting the weekly speakers choose their favorite non-profit organization as the offering focus when they spoke. The total offering would be divided between these organizations at the end of the summer. Some in the congregation balked at this idea, feeling we should keep the money for ourselves. Others, including me, felt strongly that this was a great way to support the missions of others and a nice incentive when trying to recruit speakers. Since 1999 we have had 250 speakers and collected \$35,000 for charity!

At first the music at the service was provided by our choir director using a small keyboard. When she left we started using a karaoke-type sound system with Gil Vaughn (former director of the Boys & Girls Club) and his daughters taking charge of that. Now that the girls are grown up and moved away, Gil recruited one of his coworkers, Ashley Tovo, to help us out. We have a new wireless sound system this year too.

We've always had coffee and goodies, but the quality much improved in 2005 after Evalyn Vroman joined the church and started bringing her delicious homemade baked goods. Others now bring snacks too, so it's become more of a joint effort and somewhat of a breakfast potluck!

I have to admit, finding speakers, preparing for the services and lugging everything down to the Park early Sunday morning is a lot of work. More than once I've thought about calling it quits. But at the close of the service, when we hold hands in a circle and sing Blest Be The Tie That Binds, I look at that diverse group of people, all refreshed from being spiritually fed in that beautiful setting, and I know God wants us to continue.

Shalom , Rev. Lenore

July & August Shoreline Speakers and Offering

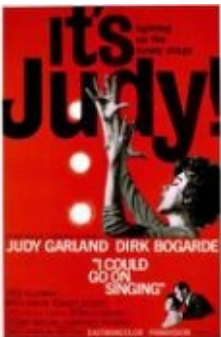
July 1	Nette Simon	Humane Society of Erie
8	P.T. Barnum	Moments Matter Foundation
15	Alphonso Darden	Apostle Quenten King Ministries
22	Jeremy Pifer	Flat Rock Homes
29	Dan Miller	Parkvue Activity Fund
Aug 5	Keysha Thomas	Firelands Habitat for Humanity
12	Barry Gill	Sandusky Artisans
19	Gail Puckrin	UCC El Salvador Team
26	Soni Vyas	United We Dream & Los Ninos de Corsos

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

Rev. Lenore is heading to West Virginia to officiate at Daryl Becker's wedding and enjoy some vacation days. She will be out of the office June 28 - July 5th. If you have a pastoral emergency during that time, please contact Rev. Bob Bottoms at 419-271-0086. He is covering for her and will be preaching on July 1st.

The **JULY** Supper Club will meet at Berardi's on Tuesday, July 3rd at 6:00 p.m.. The **AUGUST** Supper Club will meet at the home of Patsy Hicks (5807 Cambridge Circle) on Thursday, August 16th at 6:00 p.m.. Please bring a dish to share. Sign up sheets are posted on the bulletin board at the back of the church

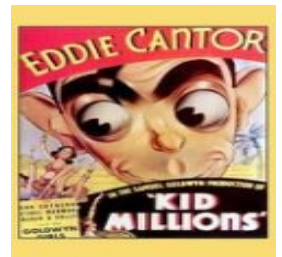
Looking for something fun to do? Come to **Movie Night** on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. - popcorn provided!



The July movie selection is "I Could Go On Singing" starring Judy Garland. She plays a celebrated singer, Jenny Bowman, who asks her ex-lover David to let her see their son, Matt. She is unprepared for the emotional consequences. Though Matt doesn't even know Jenny is his mother, their growing bond will force Jenny to make the most difficult choice of her life: between the rewards of motherhood and the glamorous life on stage.

The August movie selection is "Kid Millions" starring Eddie Cantor. Who's that dodging his murderous mama, an equally murderous sheik, and the temptations of a harem full of beauties? It's Brooklyn's own Eddie Wilson (Eddie Cantor) who comes to Egypt to claim an inheritance and finds that lots of other folks want a slice of his \$77,000,000 pie.

In one of his famed Samuel Goldwyn movie extravaganzas, Eddie Cantor sings, clowns and wows'em as Eddie. Kid Millions also boasts dynamo Ethel Merman as Eddie's supposed mother (let's see Eddie's twenty-five, she's nineteen...hmmm). His endearing appeal carried him through a career of almost fifty years.





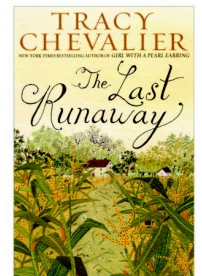
**INTERNATIONAL POT LUCK
AT THE PEACE GATHERING
JULY 31ST 6:30 P.M.**

Good food will abound at The Peace Gathering July 31st as everyone is invited to share their favorite family dish from their immigrant ancestors. Those who would like to give some background information about the recipe or their family background will be encouraged to do so.

Following the meal, Soni Vyas will make a presentation about immigration issues and a hoped for resolution to make Sandusky a Welcoming City.

We will meet in the lower level of the church at 6:30 p.m.. Beverages and table ware will be provided. All are welcome, so spread the word! Anyone unable to bring a dish may make a donation.

When the **Book Club** meets August 1st they will discuss *The Last Runaway* by Tracy Chevalier. This story is about Honor Bright, a modest English Quaker who moves to Ohio in 1850, only to find herself alienated and alone in a strange land. She discovers that principles count for little, even within a religious community meant to be committed to human equality. However, drawn into the clandestine activities of the Underground Railroad, Honor befriends two surprising women who embody the remarkable power of defiance. Eventually she must decide if she too can act on what she believes in, whatever the personal costs.



All are welcome! The Book Club discussions are held on the first Friday of every month at Frosty's Activity Room at the Parkvue Health Center at 2:00 p.m. Copies of the book are available at the church office.



Greetings!

We at the Club are ready and excited for summer fun and pleasantly hot weather!

Our plans are to utilize the outdoors daily, so we may not be here as often. We will be having volunteers participating this summer with activities for our youth, which is always helpful for us all!

Thank you for your continued support of our program!

Sheila Graves, BGC Youth Director

RECOVERY WALK

The 5th Annual Recovery Walk & Rally will take place on September 15, 2018. Watch the bulletin board by the elevator for details as they become available.



JULY

Leslie Conant & Marnay Schrock	7/2
Elizabeth Elliott	7/3
Kathie Simon	7/10
Mark Austin	7/11
Fred Nottke	7/15
David Shipley	7/16
Madison Leffler	7/19
Gracie Elliott	7/20
Marv & Deb Keller, Andy Nappi, 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, 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

Jennifer Ashburn, Alice Conant, Sally & Jeff Green, Frank Lowery, Jack & Rhonda Neese, Nathan Schrink, John Vroman, Syler Will and the Wilson Family
Homebound: Ruth Baker, Anne Johnstone, Dot Malinovsky, Dorothy Moore and Elmeda Schwartz



Congratulations to Nette & Kathie Simon! Rev. Lenore officiated at their wedding ceremony on June 16th. In addition to getting married, they have moved. Their new address is listed below.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Debbi Keller
5055 Providence Dr., Apt. 105
Sandusky, Ohio 44870

Harry Boguzewski
2028 Karl Ann Drive
Sandusky, Ohio 44870

Nette & Kathie Simon
5055 Providence Dr., Apt. 108
Sandusky, Ohio 44870



We received a thank you for our quarterly donations from United Church Homes and Crossroad.

OUR BILLS NEVER GO ON VACATION!

Remember to keep up your pledge this summer. If you are traveling away from home, please send your donations to the church in your mail-able offering envelopes, or utilize our electronic giving option. Contact Scarlet Berry either after worship or by phone at 419-624-2385 if you are interested in electronic giving.



What's Going On REPORTS FROM OUR BOARDS

Christian Education

Jacki Warren-Chairperson

Members Jacki Warren, Patsy Hicks, Debbi Keller and Phyllis Bottoms met with Rev. Lenore on Tuesday, June 5, 2018. A summary of what was discussed follows.

Sunday School will end on June 17th, Father's Day, and start again on September 9th. Patsy hasn't decided on the curriculum for the fall yet.

Book Club: The book for July is Bel Canto by Ann Patchett. Various titles were discussed for August and beyond. Jacki will pursue The Last Runaway since it is of local interest and history (Wakeman and Oberlin) for August and also the availability of The Story of Arthur TruLuv.

Study Group has finished meeting until September. We are exploring topics for fall and beyond. It was suggested that we start with the material Carrie has on the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, a four week study.

Retreat: We began thinking about our retreat and when it should be (August, September?) A possible trip to the Cleveland Cultural Gardens to attend One World Day was discussed. We will explore this idea and others further at our next meeting.

200th Anniversary: Christian Education would pull together highlights from its past programs, etc.

Our next regular scheduled meeting is Tuesday, July 3, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.. For that meeting we are to read "Reclaiming Jesus: A Confession of Faith in Time of Crisis" written and signed by multiple faith leaders as a possible discussion topic for Study Group.

Board of Elders

Joy Berquist & Chris Michaels, Co-Chairs

As I sit here tonight writing this article for the July/August newsletter, I reflect on the first half of the year. The Elders have replaced some of the banner holders with newer, nicer looking holders. If you would like to see them, let me know.

I have started a Junior Acolyte program that allows the Sunday school kids to light the candles and ring the church bell with me when Big T is not in church.

The Shoreline services have started and are once again a rousing success. I actually spoke at the June 17th Shoreline service on how God's awesome love has impacted my life. The 10:00 a.m. services at the church are keeping pace with Shoreline in terms of attendance.

It's been a good year so far and I'm looking forward to a good rest of the year, leading up to the Advent season. Until September, I hope everyone has a happy and safe summer and I will see you at Shoreline or at church.

Sincerely,

Chris Michaels, Co-chair

As part of Sandusky's Bi-Centennial Celebration, the third Sunday of every month has been designated as **Heritage Sunday**. Churches in the City were asked to take turns hosting tours of their buildings and sharing with visitors how they are involved in the community.

Pastor Eric Bodenstab, from Zion Lutheran came up with the novel idea for the three churches on our corner to join together to have a block party on **July 22nd**. The event will run from **12:30 - 3:30 p.m.** Jefferson Street will be blocked off from Columbus Avenue to the driveway of the house that sits on the corner of Jefferson and Jackson Streets.

Rev. Lenore, Pastor Eric and Deacon Phil Dinovo from Sts. Peter & Paul will get things started with a brief prayer. Then everyone is free to participate in the numerous activities that will line the street, or take a **tour of the churches**. Those who tour our church will not only see our sanctuary and Peace Room, but the Unitarians will be set up in the Boardman Room so visitors can learn about them as well. Charles and Robin will also play a few duets to give folks a taste of what we enjoy every Sunday.

There will be food trucks, pizza, root beer floats and popcorn. The children can enjoy face painting, a balloon artist and other activities. Meanwhile, the adults can play bingo or shop at the bake sale.

Volunteers will be needed to spruce up our sanctuary before the event, and to work that day setting up, giving tours, making popcorn and cleaning up when it's over. Please let Rev. Lenore know how you will help.

