

September 2018

As we prepare to begin a new program year, I can't believe the summer is coming to a close already. I feel this way every year so I don't know why I'm surprised, but I am.

Even more unbelievable, I have begun preparing for the Advent season! That does not happen every year. In fact, I don't usually even begin thinking about it until late October.

Thanks to a wonderful book I am reading, my mind has been focused on joy lately. As you may remember, the third Sunday of Advent is when we light the candle of joy. I've decided on that Sunday this year (December 16th) I will do a review of the book during fellowship time after worship.

The Book of Joy, Lasting Happiness in a Changing World is written by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu with Douglas Abrams. These Nobel Peace Prize Laureates, survivors of more than fifty years of exile and the soul-crushing violence of oppression, spent a week together to create the book. It was their hope that the book would be a gift to others as they answered the question: How do we find joy in the face of life's inevitable suffering?

It certainly was a gift to me as I try to make sense out of the craziness going on in our country today. I find myself angry at the lies, deceit and hatred that abounds, and am growing weary of the social activism I feel called to participate in in order to stand up for what I know is right, whether it concerns immigration, gun violence, the rights of women or environmental issues.

That's why I'm grateful to the Board of Christian Education for planning the upcoming mini retreat without me having any leadership responsibilities. Along with them and everyone else in attendance, I can relax and let myself be spiritually renewed under the guidance of Franciscan nun, Sister Edna Michels. I look forward to the sense of peace that will come with the prayer, meditation and reflection she will offer, along with the joy I always feel when we have an opportunity to get to know one another better.

I hope you will join us (*see the back cover for details*). Better yet, invite someone to come with you. The gift of hope in these troubled times just might prove to be the best gift ever for them, and you!

Shalom, Rev. Lenore



Last Chance Of The Season For Shoreline Worship

If you haven't made it to a Shoreline service yet this summer, your final opportunity is **September 2nd**. The speaker that morning will be our Ashley Tovo, our Shoreline music specialist. The offering focus is Celebrate Recovery. We will conclude the season by celebrating Holy Communion.

The September **Supper Club** will be hosted by John Rainey and Gene Finnegan in the multi-use room at Parkvue on Tuesday, **September 4th** at 6:00 p.m. Please bring a covered dish. Gene will be cooking Bratwurst on the grill and making his popular sauerkraut casserole. Please sign up on the sheet in the sanctuary so they know how much meat to prepare.



When the **Book Club** meets on Friday, **September 7th** they will discuss *The Story of Arthur Truluv* written by Elizabeth Berg.

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

Copies of the book are available at the church office.

Study Group Resumes

Welcome back to Study Group starting September 13, at 7 p.m. in the Boardman Room. Did you realize that the Protestant Reformation started 500 years ago? We will be commemorating that anniversary through a four-week study prepared by the Stillspeaking Writers Group of the United Church of Christ.

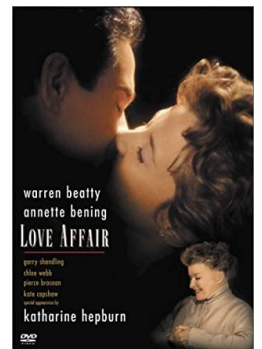
What exactly did Martin Luther start and what does it have to do with us today? What did it reform? In what ways was it revolutionary? So what?

Join us in reading and discussing the ideas and convictions that rocked the European world of the 16th Century as we examine their relevance to the church today. Are we due for another Reformation?

Program booklets are available in the church office. This should be a very interesting and thought provoking start to our program year. Please join us in another entertaining and inspirational year. ~ *Jacki Warren, Board of Christian Education*

Movie Night has moved to the fourth Tuesday of the month. On **September 25th** at 7:00 p.m. The selection is *Love Affair* starring Irene Dunn and Charles Boyer. While on a cruise to New York to get married to his fiancée and heir of a great fortune, the bachelor sportsman (Charles Boyer) meets the gorgeous former nightclub singer Terry McKay (Irene Dunn), who is returning to her supportive boyfriend, and they fall in love. They schedule to reunite on the 102nd floor of the Empire State building 6 months later, to decide whether they should marry each other or not.

Popcorn provided. Bring a beverage and a friend!



Community Breakfast - September 29th

lend a hand or make a donation

Cathy & Mark Pifer are in charge of the upcoming Community Breakfast, to be held Saturday, September 29th from 9-11 a.m.. They are in need of volunteers. If you can't be there the entire time, your help setting up before, or cleaning up afterwards would be appreciated. Please let them know your availability. If instead you would like to make a donation, please put it in the offering plate in an envelope and mark it "Community Breakfast."

RECOVERY WALK

Sandusky's Fifth Annual Recovery Walk for all who support recovery is scheduled for Saturday, **September 15th** at 9:00 a.m.. Organized by the Sandusky Artisans Recovery Community Center, the walk begins at the Artisans Center (138 E. Market St.) and ends at the Shoreline Park pavilion with a rally. The Walk is free. You can get a free T-shirt by being one of the first 200 to register at artisansrecoveryctr.com or call 419-621-9377.



Daryl Becker, Phyllis Bottoms	9/1
Fred & Sue Nottke	9/7
Don Schlett	9/18
Mark & Cathy Pifer	9/20
Bob Bottoms	9/21
Jackie Niven	9/30

In Our Thoughts and Prayers...

Jud Brandes, Andrew & Nicole Boguszewski, Dino Caporini, Alice Conant, Sally & Jeff Green, Gail Hemmer, Molly Hicks, Debbi Keller, Jack & Rhonda Neese, Kim Nemeth, Nathan Schrink, Kathie Simon, Christine Vroman, Amy Wilford, Syler Will, Zion Church.

The Banks, Baum, Borchard, Hirt, Mawhirter, Rock, and Tunez families.

Homebound: Ruth Baker, Anne Johnstone, Dot Malinovsky and Elmeda Schwartz.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Rev. Don Rock. He was the interim minister here from April 1985 - December 1986 and passed away August 11th.



Thank You

We received thank you's from Church World Service for our \$311 contribution to the Blankets and Tools Program and from United Church Homes for our quarterly donation to the Parkvue Community.

ADD YOUR VOICE TO THE CHOIR

Now that a new program year is beginning, it's the perfect time to join the choir. Brief rehearsals are held after worship. Don't be shy - they are a friendly group. Just come on down and join them!



The **Unitarians** resume meetings **September 16th** at 3:00 p.m. in the Boardman Room. The speaker is Juliet Didelot, Political Science Lecturer, BGSU Firelands. The topic is Dysfunctions of Inequality Part II.

EHOVE
Senior Citizen
Fall Festival

Wednesday, September 19th
and Thursday, September 20th

\$6.00

10:15 Doors Open

11:00 Welcome Guests

Entertainment by:

Singin' & Swingin' with Patrick

11:45 Lunch Served

Advanced reservations required

(forms available on the bulletin board by the elevator)



REPORTS FROM OUR BOARDS

Christian Education

Jacki Warren-Chairperson

The Board met August 7th.

The International Dinner sponsored by The Center for Peace Through Understanding was successful and productive.

Patsy has chosen the curriculum for Sunday School. Classes start Sunday, September 9th.

The Study Group will begin a 4-week series commemorating the 500th Anniversary of The Protestant Reformation. The meetings begin Thursday, September 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the Boardman Room. Future study topics were discussed.

The Book Club continues to thrive. The September selection is The Story of Arthur Truluv by Elizabeth Berg. Our next meeting is Friday, September 7th. Future book choices were discussed.

Board of Elders

Chris Michaels-Co-Chairperson

As I sit here relaxing after watering our garden, putting down the grass seed and hay, I wonder where the summer has gone. It has been surprisingly quiet for the Board of Elders. People have been stepping up to help with Communion and the offering. We have had people signing up to read scriptures. Judy Harris's grandsons, John and Joseph have been helping light the altar candles and ring the bell. I look forward to having other children help as well. As we move towards fall, winter and the season of Advent, you may see some changes in the sanctuary. If you notice them, please let me know.

Board of Mission & Outreach

Barb Petersen-Chairperson

We are looking for anyone who is willing to coordinate the *CROP WALK* in October.

The board approved a \$180 donation for students visiting from Germany in September 2018. And we're discussing whether to continue sponsoring Goitseman from Botswana at \$300 annually or if we will sponsor an elder adult instead.

Our next meeting is 9:30 a.m. September 9, 2018.

In these days of uncertainty, disappointment, and despair discover the "**courage to hope**" with Sister Edna Michels at our fall mini-retreat. Let your spirit be renewed as she leads us through prayer, meditation and reflection. This is part of our on-going effort to make our lives and our world more peaceful.

Courage

We will gather at **9:00 a.m. Saturday, September 22nd**, in the Boardman Room for a continental breakfast and a time of strengthening our relationship with one another and the church before the presentation begins. We will conclude our time together with lunch from Mr. Smith's Coffee House.

Hope

Watch the mail for your invitation. Please **RSVP by September 16th** by e-mail (firstcongrucc@aol.com) or by calling the church office at 419-625-8105. **All are welcome** so please invite anyone you know who is feeling discouraged by personal challenges or the turmoil looming over our country these days.
