

OCTOBER 2018



From the MINISTER

Last March, at the March for Our Lives event our Center for Peace Through Understanding (CPTU) sponsored, along with local youth, I was sure I was experiencing what would be the highlight of my ministry. What could possibly be better than helping members of the younger generation find their voice and stand up against the gun violence threatening all of us?

I'm not sure if what happened at City Hall this week was better than that or not, but it certainly was on par with the March. In case you missed the front-page news, our Center for Peace Through Understanding played an important role in bringing a resolution to the City Commissioners to make Sandusky a "Welcoming City." Officially now Sandusky will be a welcoming, safe and affirming community for immigrants. The CPTU will be working with the City to form a coalition with local businesses, service organizations and churches to put the terms of the resolution into action.

I hope you join me in taking pride in the fact that our little congregation is demonstrating to the community that we believe being the church today is about more than getting butts in the pew, or telling others how they should live their lives. Personally, I am most proud that we are doing our best to challenge the ridiculous narrative that has been circulating the past couple of years that says immigrants are bad people who threaten our lives and want to take our jobs. Such a tale has done nothing but increase hate and violence all around the country.

That reminds me of the motto for this year's NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet, "Defeat Hate - VOTE." This is a very important election coming up so I hope you are registered. If not, you have until October 9th to do so. Forms are available in the church office. Then, starting October 10th, make sure you vote. The times the Board of Elections will be open for early voting will be posted in the Sunday announcements each week through November 4th.

*Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another,
live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.*

2 Corinthians 13:11

Shalom, Rev. Lenore

Rev. Lenore will be taking vacation days: September 28 - October 4 and October 10-16. If you have a pastoral emergency during those times, please call Rev. Bob Bottoms, 419-271-0086. He will be preaching on September 30th. October 14th is Laity Sunday. Nette Simon has volunteered to deliver the message.



Supper Club will be hosted by Nette and Kathie Simon October 2nd at the Commons of Providence (5500 Providence Drive) at 6:00 p.m.. Nette is making lasagna for the main course. Please bring a side dish and be sure to sign up on the bulletin board at the back of the sanctuary.

When the **Book Club** meets on Friday, October 5th they will discuss *The Help* written by Taylor Tate. At that time the book for November, *The Book Thief*, will be distributed. This is an unsettling and unsentimental book, yet ultimately poetic. Its grimness and tragedy run through the reader's mind like a black-and-white movie, bereft of the colors of life. The book club discussions are held on the first Friday of every month in Frosty's Activity Room at the Parkvue Health Care Center at 2:00 p.m. All are welcome! Copies of the book are available from the church office.



The observance we now known as World Communion Sunday began in 1936 as World-Wide Communion Day. It started when a group of pastors were looking for a way to meet people's spiritual needs and unite Christians in their dedication to Christ amid the Great Depression.

For eight decades it has been celebrated on the first Sunday in October, serving as a reminder that Christians around the globe share the same meal in remembrance of Jesus. This year it falls on October 7th. Join us in this global effort to focus on what unites, rather than divides, us.



The **Movie Night** selection on October 23rd will be *Big Eden*. It is a tiny town tucked away in the timberland of northwestern Montana, where cowboys lounge on the porch of the general store to pass the time away. It's also the childhood home of Henry Hart (Arye Gross who played in *Ellen & Minorities Report*), a successful New York artist who returns after many years to care for his ailing grandfather.

Back home, Henry confronts his unrequited passion for his high school best friend and his feelings about being gay in a small town. Warmed by the openness and affection of old friends, in time Henry finds new possibilities for friendship and romance. *Big Eden* is a uniquely American fable about home and family, It hits upon the universal longing and hope we each have for finding a place where we are loved, and the unconditional desire to see those that we love find happiness.

Award winning ensemble cast including Eric Schweig (*Last of the Mohicans*, *Skins*) and Louise Fletcher (*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*.)

***"Sometimes when you finally let go,
you find something worth holding onto."***



John Rainey	10/9
Ruth Maier, Gene Finnegan & John Rainey	10/10
Harvey Heys	10/14
Gavin Becker	10/17



We received thank you notes from AbilityWorks, Crossroad and the LGBT Community for our quarterly donations.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers...

Peggy Anderson, Hurricane victims, Debbi Keller,
Jack & Rhonda Neese, Kim Nemeth, Paulette Pasley,
Flossy Sanders, Nathan Schrink, Stan Stuart,
Emil (Mike) Thomas, Christine Vroman and the Burson Family.
Homebound: Ruth Baker, Anne Johnstone, Dot Malinovsky, and Elmeda Schwartz

Memorial

Rev. Edgar Shelly, interim pastor at First Congregational when Jim Gardner was the organist, recently made a memorial contribution in his name. Also a member of the Sandusky Choral Society, Ed appreciated Jim's skill at accompanying them on the piano and organ. "I know there's a special place in heaven for musicians like Jim," he said.

SHORELINE WRAP UP

Our final Shoreline service of the season was September 2nd. Ashley Tovo was the speaker and inspired all with her faith story. Ashley was actually a blessing to us all summer long as she took care of the music for our services. We were also blessed with good weather every Sunday.

As always, the total offering for the season is being divided between the charities selected by our speakers. Each of the following will receive \$110: ACORNs Ministry, Adult & Teen Challenge of the Firelands, American Heart Association, Burn Pits 360, Celebrate



Recovery - Norwalk Chapter, Firelands Habitat for Humanity, Humane Society of Erie county, Flat Rock Homes, Los Ninos de Corsos, Moments Matter Foundation, Ministries of Apostle Quenten King, Northwest Ohio UCC El Salvador Team, Parkvue Activity Fund, Positive Outreach, Sandusky Artisans, United We Dream.

It's never too early to start planning for next year. If you have a speaker suggestion, please give the contact information to Rev. Lenore and she will follow up.



REPORTS FROM OUR BOARDS

Christian Education

Jacki Warren-Chairperson

The Board met September 4, 2018 and discussed the following:

Everything is all set for the Retreat. Jacki found an article in The New Yorker magazine that she and Lenore will use as an introduction that morning. Kim will take care of breakfast and pick up the lunches from Mr. Smith's Coffee Shop.

Sunday School is set to start on Sept. 9th. Kathie Simon will cover for Patsy on Oct. 7th and 14th, Nov. 4th and Dec. 2nd while she is away. Rev. Lenore gave Patsy a catalog of Advent materials for her to choose what she wants to order for the children.

The Study Group resumes Thursday, September 13th with a series about the Reformation. After that they will begin a series titled "Reclaiming Jesus."

The next Peace Gathering sponsored by the Center for Peace Through Understanding will be Tuesday, October 30^t

Board of Mission & Outreach

Barb Petersen-Chairperson

The Board met September 9, 2018.

No new information received from the Disaster Team.

The Neighbors in Need collection will be Sunday, October 28th. Offering envelopes will be placed in the newsletter and the Sunday Bulletin on October 28th. See article elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Board decided not to re-establish a \$300 yearly donation to Goitsewang from Botswana. Instead, they plan to sponsor an elderly adult for \$200.

The Board authorized a \$200 half-page ad in the NAACP Souvenir Journal. Rev. Lenore will draft appropriate language to promote our Open and Affirming congregation and the Center for Peace Through Understanding..

The next meeting: 9:30 a.m. October 14, 2018.

Respectfully, Karen Mork

Board of Elders

Joy Berquist & Chris Michaels-Co-Chairs

Friends and Family of First Congregational U.C.C.:

As I sit here and write this article I wonder where summer has gone. The temperature outside is getting cooler, and the leaves are changing on the trees. Inside the church the new fall banners are up for ordinary time and will be in place until the Advent season which is only a month and half away.

Judy Harris's great-grandsons, John and Joseph have been helping me ring the bell and light the

candles when Big T hasn't been able to make it to church. So when you see them, tell them good job.

Well, until the November newsletter, peace my friends.

Your friend in Christ,
Chris Michaels
Board of Elders Co-chair

NEIGHBORS IN NEED

The Neighbors in Need offering will be collected Sunday, October 28th, to support the UCC ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. An envelopes are available o the back tables in the sanctuary. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts and direct service projects. Our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network, Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties and environmental justice.

Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of this offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries. Historically, forebearers of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara and Hockak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin and northern Nebraska. Today their are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-cultural UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

Karen Mork, Mission & Outreach

Board of Finance

Scarlet Berry-Treasurer

I am starting on the 2019 budget. The individual boards will receive their information the beginning of October 2018.



"What is **Laity Sunday**?" you ask.

The laity are the non-ordained members of a religious community, so Laity Sunday is the one day a year when they, rather than clergy, lead the worship service. It's an opportunity to acknowledge that all Christians are called to serve and to share their faith. (It's also a chance for the pastor to take a break!)

Our Laity Sunday this year will be **October 14th**. Please plan to be here to support Nette Simon, who will be delivering the message, and the others who will be helping with the service.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>October 2018</h1>					At Grace Episcopal: Bones & Balance Tuesday & Thursday @ 10:00 a.m.	
	1	2 Supper Club 6:00 p.m.	3	4 11 th Step Meeting 1:00 p.m. Study Group	5 Book Club 2:00 p.m.	6
7 World Communion Sunday Care & Share	8	9 Christian Ed Board 11:00 a.m.	10	11 11 th Step Meeting 1:00 p.m. Study Group	12	13 Boardman Room reserved 9:30 a.m.-7
14 Laity Sunday Mission & Outreach 9:30 a.m.	15	16	17	18 11 th Step Meeting 1:00 p.m. Study	19	20
21 Unitarians 3:00	22	23 Movie Night 7:00 p.m.	24	25 11 th Step Meeting 1:00 p.m. Study Group	26	27
28 Neighbors In Need Offering	29	30 Peace Gathering 6:30 p.m.	31	Unless otherwise noted, our Sunday schedule is 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship/Choir Rehearsal		