

November 2018



I always try to come up with something positive and uplifting for this article, but in light of all the frightening and depressing news these days, I've really struggled to find that something this month. Knowing I was down to the wire, and had to write something today, I woke up this morning praying for inspiration because I had absolutely nothing in mind.

My discouragement only increased when I went to the gym for my morning exercise. Watching the news while on the treadmill, my spirit sank deeper as details were shared about each of the Pittsburgh shooting victims. It was all so incredibly sad. Then suddenly there was breaking news about the Indonesian plane crash with no survivors. I was so emotionally engaged in what was on the screen, I jumped when a woman waved and shouted to get my attention. "Do you have a minute?" she asked. "I need to tell you something." I removed my ear buds, expecting to hear a pastoral concern of some sort.

Instead, with great excitement she proceeded to tell me about something she had just witnessed on her way to the gym. In the early morning darkness a single ray of sun light shown over the tops of a group of trees, highlighting their beautiful autumn colors with such brilliance she and her friend were left totally in awe. "I'm sure it was a message, a sign," she said, "and I knew I had to tell you."

Now you can think whatever you want, but to me this was a "God thing" and exactly what you and I need these days, a reminder that our Creator God is with us in the midst of all that is going on. The woman's insistence on sharing her experience with me is also a reminder. We have the care and support of one another as we try to cope with the daily bombardment of bad news. Friends, family, fellow church members and even gym buddies are here to help us through these difficult days.

In this season of Thanksgiving, let's be sure to give thanks for the embrace of loved ones, compassion of friends, smiles from strangers and all the magnificent signs of God's presence in the natural world.

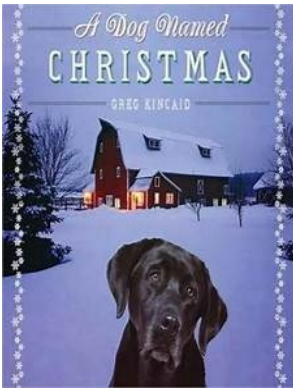
Shalom,
Rev. Lenore

CONGRATULATIONS JOSEPH!

Rev. Lenore presented third grader Joseph Judy with a bible from the congregation on October 28th. Joseph is the great-grandson of Judy Harris.



BOOK CLUB NEWS



The Book Club will meet Friday, November 2nd to discuss *The Book Thief*. At that time, *A Dog Named Christmas*, the book for December, will be distributed. Written by Greg Kincaid, this is a quick and uplifting read that makes for a perfect respite from the bustle and stress of the holiday season. It is a story of hope, love and miracles - true to the Christmas spirit.

The Book Club meets at 2:00 p.m. on the first Friday of the month in Frosty's Activity Center at the Parkvue Health Care Center. Everyone is welcome. Books are available from the church office.

Let's Celebrate!

As donors to the Martin Luther King, Jr. bust to be placed in Freedom Plaza downtown, we have been invited to its unveiling. That will take place Saturday, November 3rd at 10:00 a.m. with a reception to follow at Adams Junior High.



Daylight Savings time ends at 2:00 a.m. Sunday, November 4th. Be sure to set your clocks back an hour before going to bed Saturday night.

Days grow shorter, but God's love never decreases. Nights lengthen, but God's light outshines all the world's darkness.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

On All Saints Sunday, November 4th, we will remember our family and friends who passed away during the last twelve months. Candles will be placed on the altar for: Katherine Baker, Marilyn Weiland, Bill Michaels, Jim Gardner, Steve Nestor, and Jackie Niven. If you would like someone else included, please let Rev. Lenore know by November 3rd.

Fun, Fun, FUNdraiser!

Proceeds will help pay for the bench we hope to purchase for one of the downtown parks in honor of Sandusky's Bicentennial and our ministries on the corner of Jefferson St. & Columbus Ave. with Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Firelands and Zion Lutheran Church.



also 50/50, Silent Auction and Bake Sale (donations only)

Saturday, November 10, 2018

2-4 p.m.

At Zion Lutheran Church (lower level)

Movie night, November 27th, will feature *The Trip to Bountiful*, starring Geraldine Page as an elderly widow, who longs to go back to her idyllic small-town roots. She ends up escaping from her overprotective son and pretentious daughter-in-law to the local bus station to head to Bountiful. There she befriends Thelma, a young woman traveling home. Showtime is 7:00 p.m.. Popcorn provided. Bring your own beverage and a friend or two!



HELP DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

We will begin "hanging the greens" on November 25th following the worship service. The final touches will be added that evening following a pot luck at 6:00 p.m.. Please bring a dish to share. Table service will be provided.



Our fall Spaghetti Dinner is scheduled for November 30th. So it's time to gear up to make it a success. First, put it (and the evening before) on your calendar. Your help is needed in making the sauce and setting up. Sign up on the back bulletin board. Then spread the word, post flyers and sell your tickets everywhere you go!

We also need desserts and (new) items and/or gift cards for the bucket auction. The auction items need to be turned into the church office by November 25th. Robin has 50/50 tickets for you to buy (and sell).

If you have any questions, call Kim Nemeth at 419- 656-1746.

Greetings!

We at the Boys & Girls Club had a very busy month of October. The youth were donated pumpkins to paint for Boo on the Bay and it was so much fun. Later OH GO extended their fun with the kiddos with face painting, pumpkin painting and treats!



America's Best Vision set up vision screenings for our youth at the club. All children failing the screens had the opportunity to receive free eye wear.

The month ended with our harvest party and lots of fun.

Sheila Graves,
B&GC Youth Unit Director

We extend our sympathy to the family of longtime member Jacki Niven. She passed away September 27th. A memorial service was held at the church on October 20th. We received memorial donations in her name from Judy Harris, Park - Ohio Industries, Inc, William & Johanne Philbrick, Eloise & Fred Rhodes, Linda & Jim Smith, William & Erlene Trsek, Diane Wagner and Harry & Sharon Willard.



Peggy Anderson, Doug Austin, Jud Brandes, Debbie Huston, Debbi Keller, Rev. Cathy Lawrence, Ruth Nappi, Jack & Rhonda Neese, Kathy Nestor, Pittsburgh shooting victims' loved ones, Samson Holman, Sr., Nathan Schrink, Evalyn Vroman, Dorothy Wilford, and the Mitchell, Niven and Shea Families
Homebound: Ruth Baker, Anne Johnstone, Dot Malinovsky, Elmeda Schwartz, and Christine Vroman

The Erie County Board of Elections, 2900 Columbus Ave., is open for **early voting** Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m., Saturday from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Sunday from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. and Monday from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.. On Tuesday vote at your precinct. The polls will be open that day from 6:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m..



Ron & Punky Porto	11/02
Charles Scroggy, Trinity Petersen	11/04
Halley Leffler	11/05
Ron Porto	11/11
Tim Work	11/19
Cathy Pifer	11/23
Kaitlyn Nemeth	11/26
Kim Nemeth, Andrew Kure	11/29



We received thank you notes from the following organizations for the donations they received from our Shoreline offerings: ACORNs Ministries, American Heart Association, Burn Pits 360, Firelands Habitat for Humanity, Flat Rock Homes, Inc., Humane Society of Erie County, and the Parkvue (Activity Fund).

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Castalia Congregational UCC, 205 Main St., is holding their annual **Roast Beef Dinner**, Saturday, November 3rd from 4-7 p.m.. The menu includes slow cooked roast beef, homemade mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, fresh salad bar, dinner roll and homemade dessert. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. All proceeds will benefit local missions and ongoing church projects.

It's also time for St. Stephen UCC's **Sauerkraut Supper**. It will be held Tuesday, November 13th from 5-7 p.m.. Adult tickets are \$12, children 5-12 are \$5 and those 4 and under are free. See the bulletin board by the elevator for more information.

On November 14th from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. St. Peter Catholic church in Huron (430 Main St.) is hosting a **Human Trafficking Awareness Night**. Everyone is invited to "come to learn more about Human Trafficking and its extent in our area, what is being done to combat it and help the victims, and what positive actions we can take." For more information see the elevator bulletin board.

EMERGENCY CANCELLATIONS

If the weather is unfavorable and you aren't sure about leaving the house for worship, or any other church event, please check the "iAlert" on News Channel 3 WKYC or go to wkyc.com. You can also sign up for free text alerts that will send i-alert notifications directly to your mobile device. Sign up at <http://www.wkyc.com/news/mobile/text/>.

We will also notify radio stations WCPZ(102.7 FM) and WLKR(96.1 FM) of any cancellation involving the church. Obviously, if a level 3 snow emergency has been declared, everything is cancelled! You can always call Rev. Lenore to find out what is, or isn't, going on (419-366-8729).



REPORTS FROM OUR BOARDS

Board of Elders

Chris Michaels-Co-Chairpersons

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

As I sit here watching the clouds go across the skyline it has given me a moment of reflection. The clouds remind me of what has gone by and what is to come. The fall decorations are out and in full display and splendor in the sanctuary. I want to thank Bill Roche for putting up the fall decorations. Seeing those decorations reminds me of the most important season to come in the church year. You're probably thinking "what season is he talking about?" The season I'm talking about is the season of Advent when we celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,
Chris Michaels

Board of Finance

Scarlet Berry-Treasurer

It's Stewardship month! Please read the article at the end of this newsletter and turn in your pledge card on or before November 18th.

Board of Mission & Outreach

Barb Petersen-Chairperson

Thank you to all who donated to the special collection for Neighbors in Need.

At our October 14th meeting we decided to donate \$250 from the Sugar Bowl to the CROP hunger program. No local CROP Walk took place this year because the previous organizer stepped down.

A special collection for the Christmas Fund will take place in December.

Chris reports the disaster bucket program is not active at this time because the person who had been in charge is no longer running it.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Mork

November is **stewardship month**, the time when you are asked to think about your financial contribution to the church for next year. The theme this year centers around the question: *What Shall We Bring?* This question was asked by the people of God and followed a moment when God, through the voice of the prophet Micah, rejected their offerings and worship as meaningless and hollow. Now is the time to think about how meaningful your giving of time, talent and financial resources is to God. Is it pleasing to God or disappointing?

What we do with our money, our time, and our talents in relationship to the church is important. All of it represents our deepest values and commitments. We are not just pledging support for a budget. We are symbolizing what we hope for this congregation, our community and even for the world.

While tithing 10% of your income is encouraged, it might be unattainable for you right now. It might be more realistic to inch your way toward tithing as a future goal with an increase in your pledge this year over what you gave last year.

Your stewardship letter and pledge card have been mailed. Please return your card on or before **November 18th, Stewardship Sunday**. The only way we can budget for 2019 and plan for the future is knowing what our expected income will be. Please give generously. Church expenses increase every year just like your personal ones do.

What Shall We Bring? Micah 6:6



It's time to order Poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas! Plants may be purchased in memory of a loved one or to honor someone. Following the Christmas Eve service, they may be taken home, or left to decorate the sanctuary.

The cost this year is \$7.00 per plant (6.5" pot).

Print this form and place it and payment in the offering plate, or return it to the church office by November 18th.

My Poinsettia is in memory / honor of (*Circle One*): _____

Do you plan to take your Poinsettia home? Yes No (*Circle One*)

Number of Poinsettias @ \$7.00 per plant: Red ____ White ____ Pink ____ Marble ____

Total Amount _____

Your Name _____