



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

431 Columbus Avenue
Sandusky, Ohio 44870
firstconguccsandusky.com

June 2019
Including Historical Highlights



May 19, 2019

Celebrating Our 200th Anniversary



I'm still basking in the glory of our May 19th celebration as we begin to plan our next anniversary event. Later in the summer we will host a Remembrance Service at the Oakland Cemetery chapel to honor prominent church members who served the church and community throughout our history.

I am still in the process of researching, but so far I know we will be remembering Moors Farwell, F.D. Parish, Rev. Nathaniel Fisher, and James Madison French, as well as members who passed away more recently.

In addition to being a pillar member of the church, Farwell was Sandusky's first mayor and Common Pleas Judge. F.D.

Parish was one several lawyers in the congregation who fought for the runaway slaves. A problem solver who never backed away from a challenge, both at the church and in civic affairs, he is also remembered for leading the movement to make Sandusky the seat of Erie County.

Rev. Fisher ministered to our members and others during the cholera epidemic of 1849. He contracted the disease and died, leaving a wife and five children.

James Madison French was born in 1866. It is believed that his father had been a slave. From such impoverished beginnings he rose to become one of the most highly respected Sandusky businessmen of his time. He served as church clerk and treasurer for many years. He also was the first president of the local NAACP. When he died from a massive heart attack at age 56 he left the bulk of his estate (valued between \$75,000-\$100,000 - a large sum at that time) to Oberlin College for the education of black students. For reasons unknown to us, he does not have a headstone. We are in the process of ordering one to be unveiled at the service.

If you have a friend or relative who was a member of the church and you would like them to be remembered in the service, please let me know. It doesn't matter where they are buried. We hope to have an anniversary token for each grave.

While this event will be somber in comparison to last month's celebration, we need to remember that there would have been nothing to celebrate without the work of these saints of the church.

Shalom, Rev. Lenore

SHORELINE SERVICES

Our summer Sunday community worship services at Shoreline Park began May 26th and will continue through September 1st. We meet at 8:00 a.m. in the pavilion, rain or shine. The Park is located at Franklin & Water Streets, next to the Yacht Club.

The speakers and offering focus in June are:

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| June 2 - Libby Boros | Ovarian Cancer Connection |
| June 9 - Emily Werner | Sandusky Artisans |
| June 16 - Jose Flores | Shoreline Ministries |
| <i>(this Sunday only, in case of rain, meet at the church)</i> | |
| June 23 - Talon Flohr | Nehemiah Center |
| June 30 - Kristina Woods | Faith Colaborative of Erie County |

The **Supper Club** will meet at the Milan Road Pizza Hut on Tuesday, June 4th at 6:00 p.m.. Please sign up on the back bulletin board in the sanctuary.



When the Book Club meets Friday, June 7th, at 2:00 p.m. the book for July will be distributed. All are welcome. The group meets in Frosty's Activity Center at the Parkvue Health Care Center. *The Forgotten Road* is the second in a Richard Paul Evans trilogy about redemption and grace and the power of second chances. Copies of the book are available in the church office.



PENTECOST IS JUNE 9th ~ TIME TO WEAR RED

On June 9th Christians around the world will celebrate the Day of Pentecost. It's often remembered as the Church's birthday. To symbolize the "tongues, as of fire" (*Acts 2:3, NSRV*) that came upon the disciples at Pentecost, we display the color red in the sanctuary that day and ask everyone to wear red.

The film for the June 25th Movie Night will be *Alexander's Ragtime Band*. This is a 1938 musical that takes its name from the 1911 Irving Berlin song "Alexander's Ragtime Band" to tell a story of a society boy who scandalizes his family by pursuing a career in ragtime instead of in "serious" music. It stars Tyrone Power, Alice Faye, Don Ameche, Ethel Merman, Jack Haley and Jean Hersholt. Showtime is 6:30 p.m. (note new time). Popcorn provided.



Community Breakfast

Our next Community Breakfast will be Saturday, June 29th. The meal is served from 9-11 a.m.. Mark & Cathy Pifer are looking for help setting up and cleaning up, in addition to volunteers to serve. If you are able to help out, please let them know (419-626-2626), or sign up on the bulletin board in the back of the sanctuary.

If you are unable to help that day, but would like to contribute to this important ministry, please put your contribution in an envelope and mark it "Community Breakfast."



We received a letter of thanks from Rev. Jerry Fenske for our participation in the Wednesday Community Lenten Services. In total \$876.37 (\$230.36 from our service) was given for the Faith Collaborative of Erie County.

A thank you certificate for our 2018 gifts to CUE (Chicago, United and Eden) Seminaries was recently received.

The Erie County Senior Center and the Volunteers of America wrote to acknowledge and thank us for our quarterly donations.

DONATIONS RECEIVED

The family of Jackie & Hugh Niven made a donation in appreciation of the importance of the church in their lives for the more than 35 years they were members. Along with it came a wish for our “great success now and in the future.”

At the anniversary dinner the **Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Firelands** presented us with a donation for our Building Fund. They have been meeting at the church for 13 years and said, “From the very beginning you made us feel welcome-including us in invitations to participate in area church or community events. We hope you will accept this donation with our deepest gratitude.”

Uppity Women in the Bible

Our friend Carrie Scheufler will be leading a series titled Uppity Women in the Bible at St. Stephen UCC on Wednesday evenings beginning June 5th from 6-7 p.m.. Everyone is welcome. If you plan to participate, please read the Book of Ruth prior to the first session.



Shane Klauss	6/1
Meredith Holman, Shane Klauss & Paul Fries	6/3
Jeffrey & Joy Berquist	6/5
Neal & Mary (Fenker) Lindsley	6/7
Angela Williams	6/9
Nette & Kathie Simon, Diane & Edward Swartz	6/16
Sari Kelley	6/18
Laura Elliott	6/20
Jack Neese	6/22
Ruth Nappi, Christopher Ketchum	6/25
Heyley Ketchum	6/26
Mike & Halley Leffler	6/27



Tracy Ambrose, Jim Bennett, Meredith Holman, Katie Coker, Bill McKenzie, Mary Ann Monday, Bob Russ, Ed Taylor, Wesley, Barb West, Cathy Work, those who are graduating and the Bess, Dunkin/Ress, Guss, Root and Sample Families and our homebound members and friends: Ruth Baker, Anne Johnstone, Dot Malinovsky, Dorothy Moore, Elmeda Schwartz, and Christine Vroman

St. Stephen UCC's Annual Strawberry Festival

905 E. Perkins Ave., Sandusky

Tuesday, June 11, 2019 5 - 7 p.m.

Sandwich, Chips & Drink - \$4
Strawberries, shortcake and ice cream - \$4



REPORTS FROM OUR BOARDS

Christian Education

Jacki Warren-Chairperson

The Board of Christian Education did not meet in May. Their next scheduled meeting is June 4th.

Board of Elders

Chris Michaels Chairperson

As we make our way to the end of the Easter Season and Pentecost Sunday, I took a moment to reflect on what has happened this past season. On April 14th members of our church family participated in Bowl for Kids' Sake and we raised over \$500. I want to thank everyone who bowled and donated money to a great cause. Holy Humor Sunday was April 28th. It was funny, and the jokes were very good. We also took in four new members on Easter Sunday and I would like to welcome Jim & Cheryl, Stuart and Laurie to our church family. We will have celebrated our 200th year which in this day and age is a pretty special thing. Chris Michaels, Chief Elder

Board of Mission & Outreach

Barb Petersen-Chairperson

The Board wishes to thank the congregation for donations received in May for the Blanket drive. In total, \$403 was collected.

We voted to contribute \$250 from the Sugar Bowl Fund to the UCC-sponsored Tools of Hope collection.

We will be collecting the Strengthen the Church offering on June 16th. Envelopes are available on the back tables in the sanctuary.