



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

431 Columbus Avenue
Sandusky, Ohio 44870
firstconguccsandusky.com

July/August 2019

Including Historical Highlights

ATTENTION ALL CHURCH MEMBERS!

CRITICAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

FOLLOWING WORSHIP ON AUGUST 11TH

Following a serious discussion about the future of our congregation at the June 11th Leadership Team Meeting the Team decided to recommend to the members of the church that it is time to pursue the possibility of divesting ourselves of our building.

As much as we love it, maintaining the building has put a drain on our resources and is dampening our spirits because we simply don't have the manpower to take care of it. The Team was in agreement, we can't continue this way.

The church is the people, not the building that houses them. As such, we can continue our important ministry in this community from any location. Such a move would enable us to focus our time, energy and resources on our missions. A smaller space will also bring us physically and spiritually closer when we worship.

Your input is vital to the discussion about this important matter. Please make every effort to be present at the August 11th meeting.



From the
MINISTER

Perhaps what you just read in the box above has left you feeling a little anxious. I can understand how thoughts of leaving our beautiful building could cause that kind of reaction. I know, because that's the way I felt when the topic first came up in a serious conversation I was having with someone about the high cost of maintaining our building. It took some time for me to accept the idea as an opportunity full of exciting possibilities for continuing the legacy of our congregation.

So, my advice to you is to take a breath, a deep breath, and calm yourself so you can think about our situation with a practical mind, not a sentimental heart.

Please consider: (1) Our building is 123 years old. It's no wonder that repairs and maintenance are

a constant issue with no end in sight. (2) We have a lot more space than our 100-member congregation needs. The entire top floor is unused. (3) We lack a workforce to take care of even minor repairs and maintenance. Gone are the days when members had spare time they were willing to use doing odd jobs at the church. We are all very busy people. (4) Instead of being able to focus our time, energy and resources on our growing outreach and influence in the community, we are constantly distracted, and frustrated, by issues related to the building. (5) We can be First Congregational United Church of Christ anywhere. Just look at what we do down at Shoreline Park all summer! It's just like that old Sunday School song says...

The church is not a building;

the church is not a steeple;

the church is not a resting place;

the church is a people.

I am the church! You are the church!

We are the church together!

And together, at the recommendation of the Leadership Team and trusting the Holy Spirit to guide us, we will meet after worship on August 11th to discuss and vote on pursuing the possibility of being the church in a smaller, more manageable facility. Please come that day and share your thoughts, whatever they may be.

Shalom, Rev. Lenore

Congratulations to Kim Files and Tabitha Wilkens!

Rev. Lenore officiated at their wedding June 29th at Facer Park.

When the **Book Club** meets Friday, July 5th, at 2:00 p.m. the book for August, *The Road Home*, will be distributed. This is the third in a Richard Paul Evans trilogy about redemption and grace and the power of second chances. All are welcome! The group meets in Frosty's Activity Center at the Parkvue Health Care Center. Copies of the book are available in the church office.

July & August Shoreline Speakers and Offering

July	7	Julie Hammond	JustSeth Foundation
	14	Christina Woods	Faith Collaborative
	21	Tracy Knappins	Salvation Army
	28	Betty Scheer	The Stroke Club
Aug	4	Charlie Greenberg	AA Inter-Group of NCO
	11	Ed & Vickie Noble	Firelands Habitat for Humanity
	18	Jess Saffran	TBA

Movie night pot luck choices for summer!

What will the movies be in July and August? You will have to come and find out, and maybe even help with the selection. Robin has narrowed the choices down to the following seven:

Swing Time - a 1936 musical comedy starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers.

Love Me Tonight - this charming and funny 1932 musical stars Maurice Chevalier and Jeanette MacDonald.

Sorry Wrong Number - Barbara Stanwyck and Burt Lancaster star in this 1948 story of paranoia and suspense.

The Other Love - a 1947 romance drama starring Barbara Stanwyck, David Niven and Richard Conte.

The Manchurian Candidate - Frank Sinatra, Laurence Harvey and Janet Leigh star in this 1962 political thriller.

Miss Pettigrew Lives For A Day - Frances Mcdormand and Amy Adams star in this 2008 "Cinderella story for grown ups."

Naughty Marietta - the first Jeannete MacDonald & Nelson Eddy musical romance, filmed in 1935.

Showtime is 6:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Popcorn is provided. Bring your own beverage, and some friends!



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

Good food will abound at The Peace Gathering July 30th as everyone is invited to share their favorite family dish from their immigrant ancestors. Anyone unable to bring a dish may make a donation. Following the meal international students working in Sandusky for the summer will share about their cultures.

We will meet in the lower level of the church at 6:30 p.m.. Beverages and tableware will be provided. All are welcome, so spread the word!

The **AUGUST** Supper Club will meet at the home of Patsy Hicks (5807 Cambridge Circle) on Tuesday, August 6th at 6:00 p.m.. Please bring a dish to share. A sign up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board at the back of the sanctuary closer to the date.

A Service of Remembrance - Our Next Anniversary Event

On Sunday August 25th instead of our regular 10:00 worship service, we will have a Service of Remembrance in the chapel at Oakland Cemetery. After honoring some of our prominent church members, we will walk to the nearby grave site of James Madison French for the unveiling of his headstone. Then we will break into groups to place anniversary tokens on the graves of the others.

We received a letter of thanks from Church World Service for our \$633 donation to the CWS Blanket program. "Because of you, Church World Service is able to respond when disasters occur and support is needed. We thank you!"

Kristina Woods, Program Director of the Faith Collaborative of Erie County, sent a letter of appreciation for our share of the Mid-Week Lenten Services offering.



Please remember in your prayers: Jim Bennett, Linda Bolyard, Cedar Point Family, Bob Cramer, David Hunscke, Heyley Ketchum, Meijer Man, Mary Ann Monday & Family, Jack Neese, Sharon at Sheldon's, Jacki Warren, the Michaels & Swinehart Families and our homebound members and friends: Ruth Baker, Anne Johnstone, Dot Malinovsky, Elmeda Schwartz, and Christine Vroman.



JULY

7/2 Kathy Hunscke, Leslie Conant & Marnay Schrock
7/3 Elizabeth Elliott
7/10 Kathie Simon
7/11 Marc Austin
7/15 Fred Nottke
7/16 David Shipley
7/19 Madison Leffler
7/20 Gracie Elliott
7/22 Marv & Deb Keller, Andy Nappi, Diane & Bruce Wagner
7/26 Judy Harris
7/31 Chris Michaels

AUGUST

8/1 Bill Mayo
8/2 Russell Petersen
8/5 Andy & Ruth Nappi
8/11 Matthew Lickfelt
8/14 Karen Mork
8/15 Gene Finnegan, Russell & Sarah Petersen,
Diane Wagner
8/17 Jud Brandes
8/19 Andrew Lickfelt
8/20 Mary (Fenker) Lindsley
8/21 Scarlet Berry
8/24 Jeanne Gilbert
8/31 Bob & Phyllis Bottoms



REPORTS FROM OUR BOARDS

Board of Christian Education *Jacki Warren-Chairperson*

The Board met with Rev. Kure on June 4. Everyone was very positive in reflecting on the May 19th celebration of the 200th Anniversary of our church and looking forward to additional celebrations throughout the year. Thanks to all who made this day so memorable.

Parkvue Book Club is reading the recent "Broken Road" trilogy by Richard Paul Evans this summer. The group will discuss the first volume at the June 7 meeting which also marks the 4th anniversary of the group. They have read and discussed with great enthusiasm 48 books of many varieties while enjoying each others company and some pretty good snacks. This has been a wonderful experience for all of us.

Sunday School will end on Father's Day, June 16th and will resume September 8th. Thanks Patsy for providing another year of loving instruction for our children.

Rev. Kure plans to begin a confirmation class in the Fall. She stressed that these classes as well as confirmation itself require a definite commitment for all involved.

Study Group will resume in September. We are reviewing material from the Massachusetts Bible Society, a three part series "Exploring the Bible" as a possible subject for next year.

It was decided our planning, involvement and participation in the International Day of Peace activities at the church Saturday September 21st will serve as our annual retreat. Watch for developing information about this special day.

Enjoy your Summer.

Members: Jacki Warren, Patsy Hicks, Phyllis Bottoms, Kathy Hunscke

Board of Elders

Nette Simon

The Lonely Name Tag.

I see the name tag rack is full! These lonely tags are screaming to be shown off again. There is something significant in a name. Share your individuality with us for communion, fellowship, worship, catch up with old friends or even make new ones. Show support as you share the love of God. Enjoy the spirit filled preaching of Rev. Lenore and the beautiful music provided by Robin and Charles.

"Come in, come in and sit down
are a part of the family "

You

If you're looking for something new to do, sign up to read scripture. Plan ahead for all the ways to be a part of all we do. Your name tag is calling you.

Nette

Board of Mission & Outreach

Barb Petersen-Chairperson

The Board of Mission and Outreach thanks the congregation for donations to the Strengthen the Church special collection. The total collected was \$214.

For 50 years, the Church World Service CROP Hunger Walk has helped to fund soup kitchens and other programs throughout the United States and around the globe to address hunger needs. The person who previously organized the regional CROP Walk is no longer doing so. However, the need for programs to address hunger still exists. More than 821 million people around the world are hungry daily.

Because our busy lives make it difficult to gather together on a particular date and time to actually WALK, the Mission Board has decided not to organize a walk. Unless someone in our congregation would like to take charge to organize a walk locally, we will accept monetary donations on Sunday morning, Aug. 18, without anyone breaking a sweat.

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