



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

431 Columbus Avenue
Sandusky, Ohio 44870
firstconguccsandusky.com

September 2019 *Including Historical Highlights*



I'm not usually glad to see the summer end, but I am this year! In fact, I've been counting the days until Labor Day weekend for several weeks now, ever since my kids booked a large cottage at Lake Tahoe for the whole family to spend several days together next week. Even my granddog Cash is joining us!

We usually get together once a year, but never have more than a day or so when everyone is present. So to have five days of family togetherness is like a little slice of heaven for me. This will be the first time since before our anniversary celebration that I've had an extended break, so I am really looking forward to doing nothing but enjoying their company and resting up for the new program year that will be underway when I return.

First there is a wonderful new curriculum we'll be using in Study Group, *What Is The Bible?* This is perfect for anyone who wants to know more about the basics of the Bible, including how to choose one. Rev. Bob, Jacki Warren and I will alternate facilitating the discussions. If you want to learn more, please ask one of us.

September 21st our Center for Peace Through Understanding is hosting the Sandusky Sunrise event. It will also be our annual retreat. Be sure to read about it elsewhere in this newsletter and please seriously consider joining us. In addition to having a great experience, you will receive a free Center for Peace Through Understanding T-shirt!

For the first time in several years I will be teaching a confirmation class. It's a class of one, but I look forward to the time Sammy Greenman and I will study about what it means to be a Christian. Over the next nine months you might be asked to help him out with some of his assignments and I hope you will. I'm sure it will be a great learning experience for both of you.

I'm also sure you all share joy in that a new program year means the choir is returning to share their beautiful singing with us. It's not too late to join them. They are an easy going group and conveniently rehearse after worship on Sunday morning. If you're interested, talk to Charles or Barb Petersen, or just come on down to the choir loft after worship and join their ranks.

Happy new program year!

Shalom, Rev. Lenore

Last Chance Of The Season For Shoreline Worship

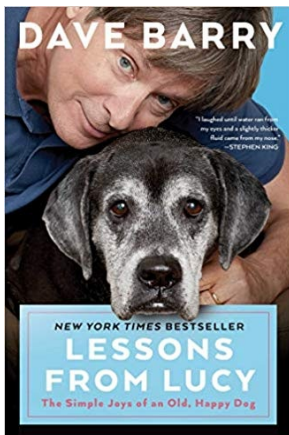
If you haven't made it to a Shoreline service, your final opportunity is **September 1st**. The speaker that morning will be our own Harvey Heys. The offering focus is Sandusky Artisans. We will conclude the season by celebrating Holy Communion.

Supper Club meets Tuesday, September 3rd at the home of Meredith Holman & Sam Greenman at 6:00 p.m.. It will be a picnic in the backyard of their home at 733 W. Park St. They will be grilling hot dogs and hamburgers. Please bring a dish to share and sign up on the bulletin board at the back of the sanctuary or give Meredith a call at 419-357-6161.



Rev. Lenore will be out of the office September 4th-12th. If you have a pastoral emergency during that time, please call Rev. Bob at 419-271-0086. He will be preaching on September 8th.

BOOK CLUB



At the September 6th meeting of the Book Club at the Parkvue Health Care Center at 2:00 p.m.. the selection for October, *Letters from Lucy* will be distributed. All are welcome. Copies of the book are available from the church office.

As master humorist Dave Barry turns seventy—not happily—he realizes that his dog, Lucy, is dealing with old age far better than he is. So he decides to figure out how Lucy manages to stay so happy, to see if he can make his own life happier by doing the things she does. With each new lesson, Dave riffs hilariously on dogs, people, and life in general, while also pondering life's deep questions. Readers will discover a new side to Dave Barry that's touching and sentimental, but there's still a laugh on every page.

STUDY GROUP RESUMES

The Thursday evening Study Group will begin the new season September 12th, meeting at a new time - 6:30 p.m., but will conclude as usual at 8:00. The extra half hour will allow participants time to be fully immersed in the new curriculum, *What Is The Bible?*, published by the Massachusetts Bible Society.

How often have you thought, "I don't even know enough about the Bible to attend a Bible study - I'd be completely lost." *What Is The Bible?* is a small-group made exactly for you. This study will help you to explore some of the best-known Bible passages and to discover some of the many ways that they can be interpreted. You will learn how the Bible as we know it was put together, who decided what parts were in and what parts were out, and where to go with your questions about the wonderful, baffling, beautiful, unsettling book we call the Bible.

If you are thinking about attending, please let Jacki Warren know so she orders enough study books. They will be distributed at the first session.

MOVIE NIGHT

The Other Love, a 1947 romance drama starring Barbara Stanwyck, David Niven and Richard Conte, is the featured film for our September 24th Movie Night. Showtime is 6:30 p.m.. Popcorn is provided - bring your own beverage and a friend or two!

The Leadership Team has designated 5th Sundays as Loose Change Sunday, a time to collect coins for the Parish Relief Fund. This fund enables Rev. Lenore to assist members in need. The next collection will be September 29th. Please bring your loose change



Loose Change Sunday

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.

EHOVE

Senior Citizen

Fall Festival

Wednesday, September 18th
and Thursday, September 19th

\$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 in the sanctuary)

No reservations over the phone

Seating is limited to 325 per day

Congratulations to Don Schlett on the birth of his granddaughter, Evelyn Jane Schlett, born August 5th. She had to have surgery when she was three days old, but Don says she is now doing great and gaining weight.



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



Please pray for: Baby Evelyn & the Schlett Family, Julie Becker, Jim Bennett, Shannon Dietrich, the El Paso and Dayton shooting victims & their families, former Register employees, Monty and Jennings Hibbard, Ethan Wood, Shane Work and the Malinovsky, Swinehart and Bolyard Families
Homebound: Ruth Baker, Anne Johnstone, Elmeda Schwartz.and Christine Vroman.

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Dot Malinovsky. She passed away August 5th. Rev. Lenore officiated at her private grave side service. There will be a memorial service for her at the church Friday, September 27th at 11:00 a.m..

We received letters of thanks from the following organizations for our quarterly donations: Ability Works, Care & Share of Erie County, Erie County Senior Center, and United Church Homes (Parkvue).



Hi Reverend Kure,

Just wanted to take a minute to say thanks again for allowing the Vacationland Band to practice in your church. It couldn't have worked out better! We had an especially good summer season and the ease of rehearsing was a contributing factor.

Sincerely, Juli Burt



REPORTS FROM OUR BOARDS

Christian Education

Jacki Warren-Chairperson

The Board has been busy preparing for the upcoming program year with new offerings for our members, friends and the wider Sandusky area.

Sunday School will resume Sunday, September 8 at 10 am. New furniture has been selected and teacher Patsy Hicks is preparing for a new year. We look forward to having all the kids back again, and of course we welcome all children, grandchildren and friends.

Study Group will resume Thursday September 12 at an earlier time, 6:30--8 p.m. with a new study, "Exploring the Bible," which requires a little more preparation and class time than previous studies. The series is designed to provide insight for those who are familiar with the Bible and those of us who feel a little insecure about our knowledge. Look for more details elsewhere in this newsletter and in our Sunday bulletins. As usual, we expect lively and interesting discussion. If you have questions about the series ask Rev. Lenore, Rev. Bob, or Jacki Warren. Copies of the study materials will soon be available in the church office.

Parkvue Book Club just finished the three volume "Road" series by Richard Paul Evans. Currently members are reading "Mrs. Lincoln's Rival" by Jennifer Chiaverini for the September 6th discussion.

Board Members:

Phyllis Bottoms, Patsy Hicks, Kathy Hunscke, Jacki Warren

Board of Elders

Nette Simon

Being somewhat new to the Board, I feel encouraged to build on that. Bringing new people in and offering the seasoned parishioners the opportunity to participate. We can accommodate those that want to read scripture but find it difficult. A huge thank you to Scarlet for helping me with Sunday duties.

Looking forward, I'd like to see new faces doing new things. The experience is quite fulfilling.

Minutes of the August 11, 2019 meeting.

Old business/ongoing:

The Board did not meet in July.

We received thank-you notes for our annual donations to the Blanket drive and Faith Collaborative of Erie County (from Lenten service collection).

New Business:

We will collect a special offering for Neighbors in Need on Oct. 20. Announcements will be placed in the Sunday bulletins in October, and Mission Moments will be presented Oct. 13 and 20. A flyer and envelope will be inserted in the newsletter and in the bulletins on Oct. 13 and 20.

The board approved these donations from the Sugar Bowl: \$300 to American Red Cross emergency relief; \$200 to Doctors Without Borders; and \$100 to Operation Smile.

Next meeting date is Sept. 1, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Mork, secretary

Four Organizations Merge to Form Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Ohio

In a move designed to strengthen and grow organizations serving nearly 8,500 kids in four counties, the governing boards of four Northeast Ohio Boys & Girls Clubs have agreed to merge.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland, Erie County, Lorain County and the Western Reserve (Akron) have merged to form Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Ohio (BGCNEO). The Clubs, which will maintain their separate organizational identities, have 36 sites between them and a total budget of about \$11 million.

The new organization will be governed by a board with representatives from all four Clubs and the local boards will shift to an advisory role primarily focused on strategy and community needs. Each local Club will retain its identity, and donors will be able to direct their funds to local Clubs specifically or to the region

New BGCNEO board officers and their Club affiliations are Rich Desich, president (Lorain County); Leslie Murray, vice president (Erie County); Mark Bachmann, secretary (Cleveland); and Derrick Ransom Jr., treasurer (Western Reserve).

Murray said, "By integrating our local Club with the other area Clubs in Northeast Ohio, we are bringing much-needed resources and opportunities to our kids. These resources will provide a deeper and richer experience for the kids we are currently serving and will allow us to grow to serve even more kids in our community."

Boys & Girls Club of Erie County will continue to provide safe, fun places for kids ages 6-18 to go after school. The Club will continue to focus on academic achievement, healthy lifestyles and character development. The Clubs' youth development professionals provide programming that includes arts, athletics and homework help.

SANDUSKY SUNRISE - A WORKING RETREAT

September 21, 2019 2-5 p.m.



Do you remember this picture? It was taken at our retreat three years ago when we conceived the idea of creating a Center for Peace Through Understanding. Since then the CPTU has grown much faster than we ever expected and now has an important influence in the community. For that reason the Board of Christian Education decided this year to have a “working retreat” in support of the CPTU’s September 21st event called Sandusky Sunrise. (Legend has it that Sandusky was known on the Underground Railroad as Station Sunrise.)

From 2-5 p.m. the church will be filled with all kinds of activities related to it being the International Day of Peace, the end of National Welcoming Week and Sandusky’s involvement in the Underground Railroad, as well as other social justice issues. There will be related activities at the Library and the Follett House Museum, in addition to a bus tour of historical Underground Railroad sites in the neighborhood.

Anyone who registers for this “working retreat” is asked to commit to one hour of volunteering that day either before, after, or during the event and to attend one of the “Beloved Community Community Dialogues” sessions offered at 2:30 or 4:00 by a group from Cleveland called Restore Hope. The dialogues are conversations on race based on true stories of our church’s involvement in the Underground Railroad. In exchange for participation in the retreat, each registrar will receive a free CPTU T-shirt.

Registration forms are available at the church, or you can sign up by calling the church at 419-625-8105. Please indicate your T-shirt size and what time you are willing to volunteer. Polo shirts are also available at a \$10 charge. **You must be registered by Sunday, September 8th to receive a shirt.**

For more information, please see the enclosed Sandusky Sunrise flyer.