



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

431 Columbus Avenue
Sandusky, Ohio 44870
firstconguccsandusky.com

October 2019



From the MINISTER

So many of our members and their families and friends are dealing with health issues these days that I recently joked that we would have a much shorter list if we listed those who don't need prayers rather than those who do. But the challenges our good and faithful people are facing are no joking matter. Some of them are life threatening.

I'm often asked how one can be helpful to those facing such challenges. My best advice is to start praying for the individual and their loved ones as soon as you hear the news. Pray for their healing, pray for the medical personnel attending to them and pray for God's peace to chase away whatever anxiety they may be feeling. Then send them a card to let them know you are praying for them.

The power of prayer was affirmed by Dave Barry, author of this month's Book Club selection, *Lessons from Lucy*. Even though he is a self-proclaimed atheist Barry attested to the importance of prayer during his daughter's critical illness recently.

He also had some good advice to follow when wanting to help someone dealing with a medical crisis. He said don't just pop in for a visit. Check first to make sure the patient is up to it.

Barry also warned against doing something we church folk often do. Don't tell the sick person or their family that everything happens for a reason. While you may believe that, those who are suffering may not find comfort in the thought that God is intentionally causing them pain and misery because of some master plan not knowable to them.

I would also add, don't tell someone they just have to have faith and everything will be okay. That sounds like you are suggesting they don't have enough faith. This is a time to build them up, not tear them down.

If you want to be helpful and don't know what to do, give me a call. I usually know if there are specific needs like meals or transportation to medical appointments. Sometimes families prefer total privacy and decline help of any kind. In such cases, as much as you want to do something for them, it is best to respect their wishes. Remember, you can always do what I first suggested - pray!

Shalom , Rev. Lenore

There will be a **Congregational Meeting** October 27th following worship. The Research & Exploration Team will report on their findings in reference to possible solutions to our building challenges.

SHORELINE WRAP UP

Our final Shoreline service of the season was September 1st. As always, the total offering for the summer was divided between the charities selected by our speakers. Checks for \$100 were sent to the following: AA Interfaith Group, Faith Colaborative of Erie County, Firelands Habitat For Humanity, Shoreline, JustSeth Foundation, Ovarian Cancer Connection, The Center for Peace Through Understanding, The Salvation Army, The Stroke Club, Zero-The End of Prostate Cancer and our Anniversary Fund. Two organizations were selected by two speakers so they will each receive \$200 - The Nehemiah Center and Sandusky Artisans.

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.

When the **Book Club** meets on Friday, October 4th the book for November, *Little Fires Everywhere* will be distributed. The Chicago Tribune said this about Celeste Ng's book, "Riveting...unearthing the ways that race, class, motherhood and belonging intersect to shape each individual...Perhaps Ng's most impressive feat is inviting the reader's forgiveness for Mrs. Richardson — a woman whose own mission for perfection, and strict adherence to rules ultimately become the catalyst for the maelstrom that ensues."

The 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 **Movie Night** selection for October will be *Swing Time*, a 1936 musical comedy set mainly in New York City, and starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. A performer and gambler travels to New York City to raise the \$25,000 he needs to marry his fiancée, only to become entangled with a beautiful aspiring dancer.

All are welcome! Showtime is 6:30 p.m., October 22nd - popcorn provided.



Thank You

We received a letter of thanks from Doctors Without Borders for our \$200 donation, as well as one from the American Red Cross for our \$300 donation. Care & Share of Erie County and the LGBT Community Center thanked us for our quarterly donations.

Directory Update

Kassidy Nemeth
1796 W. Waterford Ct., Apt. 1426
Akron, OH 44313



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

MEMORIAL

Willene Pifer made a donation in memory of Dot Malinovsky.

Marc Austin, Mary Calley, Phyllis Edwards, Elijah, Jeanne Gilbert, Irene, Bonnie Karr, Willie Koharik, Ruth Nappi, Jack Neese, Carol Robinson, Kristen Schulz, Kathie Simon, Evalyn Vroman, Diane Wagner, Ethan Wood, Cathy Work, Emily Yates, Laurie Yates, the Berquist, Seamans, Reynolds, Haverkamp and Wright Families

Homebound: Ruth Baker, Anne Johnstone, Elmeda Schwartz and Christine Vroman.



REPORTS FROM OUR BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Christian Education

Jacki Warren-Chairperson

The Board met with all members present October 1, 2019 and discussed the following:

Study Group: There are several new participants and the material has been well received. Lenore suggested a possible book to study in the future - Silence is Not the Answer.

Retreat - Sandusky Sunrise: All agreed it was an excellent event with 21 church members and friends volunteering to help.

Parkvue Book Club: Lenore will lead the October 4th session (Lessons from Lucy) and Jacki will bring the snack (cider & donuts). The next book will be Little Fires Everywhere.

Sunday School: Classes have resumed. Patsy will be gone October 6th. A Bible will be presented to John Judy during worship on October 13th.

Confirmation Class: Lenore has begun meeting with Sammy Greenman, Jr.. They will meet twice a month and do a service project each month.

The next meeting of the Board will be Tuesday, November 5th at 11:00 a.m..

Research & Exploration Team

Meredith Holman-Chairperson

The Team has been busy following up on questions and investigating suggestions made at the August congregational meeting. They will present their findings and seek further guidance from the congregation at the Congregational meeting they have scheduled for October 27th after worship.



ATTENTION ALL PEACE LOVERS!

It's time for a

PEACE GATHERING

431 Columbus Ave.

(First Congregational UCC)

Tuesday, October 29, 2019

starting with a social time at 6:30 p.m.

We will have a brief meeting at 7:00 to discuss future plans, and then through a presentation by Hallie Minich we will learn how to rely on nature's health care plan. Hallie, an essential oil specialist, says these oils can take the willing human spirit to a higher level of insight and understanding. So before the cold & flu season and the craziness of the holidays begin, come and experience the many benefits of quality essential oils for every part of your wellness...physical, emotional, mental and spiritual.

FALL RUMMAGE SALE

St. Stephen UCC

905 E. Perkins Ave.

Friday, October 11th & Saturday October 12th (Bag Sale)

8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

St. John's UCC (corner of Mason & Thomas Roads, Milan)

SWISS STEAK DINNER

Bake Sale & Crafts

Friday, October 20, 2017 4:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Ticket Price: \$10.00

St Paul UCC, Bellevue

Annual Chicken BBQ

Sunday, October 27th

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Full: \$10 Half: \$7

Church Raffle, Farmer's Market, Daycare Hatbox Auction



Love of Children is this year's theme for the **Neighbors in Need** offering, which we will receive on October 20th. This special offering supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Envelopes are available on the back tables in the sanctuary for your donation that day, or anytime in October.

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.

Through ucc.org/justice, 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 (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), 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 the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hocak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal 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.