



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

431 Columbus Avenue  
Sandusky, Ohio 44870  
firstconguccsandusky.com

**November 2019**

*Including Historical Highlights*



*From the*  
**MINISTER**

I'm a big fan of the late night comedy shows. The laughs help me relieve the stress of the day and forget, at least momentarily, my worries about the future.

I remember back in 2014, when Jimmy Fallon began his stint as host of *The Tonight Show*. Feeling no one could replace Jay Leno, I didn't expect to like him when I tuned in to his first show. Much to my surprise, I was impressed with the humility he displayed in his opening monologue. Instead of counting himself among the great comedians who had previously hosted the show, or claiming the stage as his own, he simply said, "I just want to do the best I can and take care of this show for a while."

*Take care of*, those are the same words in Genesis 2:15, "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and *take care of* it." That's not the language of ownership, but of stewardship. For a while we have all been blessed with the gift of life on this earth and are called to *take care of* the earth, each other and all creatures we share it with as long as we are here.

One way we do that is through the church with our special offerings for the needy and our social justice activism. Of course, that takes money, and we focus on the financial side of stewardship during November, Stewardship Month. However, to be a healthy congregation maintaining a vital role in our community, it also takes volunteer time. In this busy, fast-paced society, members are giving less and less time to the church. Although I could, I won't argue with anyone's reason for doing this, but I must ask the question, who then do you think will *take care of* the business of being the church and reaching out to the community?

That reminds me of this story about four people named **Everybody**, **Somebody**, **Anybody**, and **Nobody**. There was an important job to be done and **Everybody** was asked to do it. **Anybody** could have done it, but **Nobody** did it. **Somebody** got angry about that, because it was **Everybody's** job. **Everybody** thought **Anybody** could do it, but **Nobody** realized that **Everybody** wouldn't do it. It ended up that **Everybody** blamed **Somebody** when **Nobody** did what **Anybody** could have done.

Please pledge volunteer time, along with your financial giving this month.

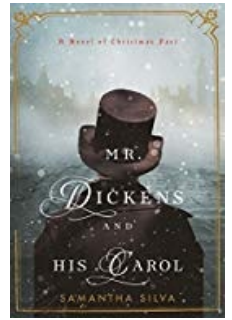
Shalom , Rev. Lenore

The church will be receiving new members before the end of the year.  
If you have been thinking of joining, please talk to Rev. Lenore.

## BOOK CLUB

When the Book Club meets on Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, following discussion of *Little Fires Everywhere*, the book for December will be introduced. *Mr. Dickens and His Carol* by Samantha Silva is a new take on a cherished classic. This fictional tale is rich in historical detail from Charles Dickens' life and laced with humor.

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 will soon be available from the church office.



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**Supper Club** will meet at Eats N' Treats (2315 E. Perkins Ave.) Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.. Please sign up on the back bulletin board in the sanctuary.

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**Daylight Savings time ends** at 2:00 a.m. Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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 dark

## ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

On All Saints Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will remember our family and friends who passed away during the last twelve months. Candles will be placed on the altar for Hallie Schlett and Dot Malinovsky. If you would like someone else included, please let Rev. Lenore know by November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Movie Night**, November 26<sup>th</sup>, will feature *Maurice*, a 1987 British romantic drama starring James Wilby, Hugh Grant and Rupert Graves. Set against the stifling conformity of pre-World War I English society, it is a story of coming to terms with one's sexuality and identity in the face of disapproval and misunderstanding. Showtime is 6:30 p.m.. Popcorn provided. Bring your own beverage and a friend or two!



Rev. Kure will be taking vacation time November 24 - 30. If you have a pastoral emergency during that time, please call Rev. Bob at 419-271-0086. He will be preaching on the 24<sup>th</sup>.



We will begin "hanging the greens" on November 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

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## 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](http://www.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 also call Rev. Lenore to find out what is, or isn't, going on (419-366-8729).

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## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Ron & Punky Porto	11/2
Jim Negrey	11/3
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 have received letters of thanks from Sandusky Artisans and Firelands Habitat for Humanity for the portion of our Shoreline services offering they received. United Church Homes thanked us for our quarterly contribution to Parkvue Community.



**Please pray for:** Nancy Baxter, Jeanne Gilbert, Kathy Hunscke, Bonnie Karr, Debbi Keller, Neal Lindsley, Ruth Nappi, Jack Neese, Holly Reckman, Kathie Simon, Evalyn Vroman, Diane Wagner, Alex Wilhelm, Cathy Work and the Durning/Cally Family Homebound: Ruth Baker, Anne Johnstone, Elmeda Schwartz and Christine Vroman

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## Memorials

We received memorials for Dot Malinovsky from Linda Smith and Toni Nossaman.

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As many of you are aware, Lisa Dudukovich has retired as Executive Director from the Boys & Girls Club. I would like to introduce myself. My name is Amy Skolnik. I have been working alongside Lisa since the end of July, learning the ropes. I have a background in education, having taught elementary school for 15 years. After leaving the classroom, I began working at Stein Hospice in fundraising and development. My most recent position was Executive Director of United Way of Erie County. I am thrilled to be part of Boys & Girls Club of Erie County and have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the children in our community.

You may notice, if you are in the church during the week, that the children are not currently in the basement. Although we have moved to Ontario Village at Adams School for the new 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center, we have no intention of leaving the church. First Congregational has been our home since the inception of the Boys & Girls Club in Erie County. We are not planning to change that. We, at Boys & Girls Club, are so thankful for the support we have received from you, the congregation and staff of the church. We couldn't have touched the lives of so many young people without your help.

If you are downtown, please stop by the Boys & Girls Club office at 135 E. Washington Row. I would appreciate having the opportunity to meet members of the church that has been a constant in the timeline of Boys & Girls Club of Erie County.

Thank you again for your continued support of the Club and children we serve!

Amy Skolnik



## REPORTS FROM OUR BOARDS

### Christian Education

*Jacki Warren-Chairperson*



The next scheduled meeting of the Board is Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>.  
The Study Group decided to continue with the *Exploring the Bible* curriculum and began the second series - *Introduction to the Old Testament*.

Rev. Lenore presented third grader John Judy with a Bible from the congregation on October 13<sup>th</sup>. John is the great-grandson of Judy Harris. Congratulations John!

### Research & Exploration Team

*Meredith Holman-Chairperson*

At the October 27<sup>th</sup> congregational meeting Meredith reported on the Team's work over the past two months following up on questions and investigating suggestions made at the August congregational meeting. Following discussion, a motion was made, seconded and approved to put the building up for sale. Joy Berquist will be contacted to begin that process with John Bauer.

The next Team meeting will be November 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 p.m.. Then they will take a break for the holidays.

The Board met on October 6<sup>th</sup>. They discussed the Neighbors In Need offering that was to be collected on October 20<sup>th</sup>.

They approved two donations from the Sugar Bowl - \$100 to the Erie County Habitat for Humanity and \$250 to the UCC's Open & Affirming Coalition.

Board members will review the current missions budget prior to the November meeting with the intention of determining a recommendation for the 2020 budget.

The next meeting will be November 3, 2019.



November is the month when we turn to God in gratitude for all our many blessings. One of those blessings is our church with its welcoming nature and 200-year legacy of social justice. So it's fitting that November is also Stewardship Month, the time when we pledge our financial support to the church for the upcoming year.

You will soon be receiving a pledge card and asked to return it on or before November 24<sup>th</sup>, Stewardship Sunday. The choir has selected a special anthem for that morning, "As Jesus Gave, So May I Give." The words remind us how indebted we are to Jesus, our model for living.

The importance of making and keeping a pledge cannot be stressed enough, especially given our current financial situation. It's impossible for the Finance Board to compile a budget for 2020 without knowing how much income we will have. PLEASE pledge generously and return your card a.s.a.p..

***AS JESUS GAVE, SO MAY I GIVE***



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).

Place the form below & payment in the offering plate, or return to the church office by **November 24<sup>th</sup>**.

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My Poinsettia is in memory / honor of: (Circle One) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Total Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Your Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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