



431 Columbus Avenue  
Sandusky, Ohio 44870  
firstconguccsandusky.com

FIRST  
CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

March 2020



From the  
**MINISTER**

*“For people of faith, the public arena we know as ‘politics’ represents much more than the partisanship we see on the news. It is a means by which we live out the commandment to love our neighbor as ourselves... Therefore, it is important for faith communities to engage in nonpartisan voter education and empowerment programs that help us reflect on our collective life and work to uplift the common good through the political process.”*

The above is an excerpt from a letter we recently received from the National Officers of the United Church of Christ. I smiled when I read their words because once again, our congregation is a step ahead of others. Months ago our Board of Christian Education decided in this important election year we needed to offer an educational opportunity for all of us to be reminded of our civic responsibilities as followers of Jesus.

The Study Group will begin a six-week Lenten series titled *Faithful Citizenship* Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.. During that same time period they will read and discuss *Silence Is Not the Answer* by George S. Johnson. If you feel like your voice, your vote, doesn't make a difference, this book is for you. It offers viewpoints from a variety of writers pointing out that in this time of political confusion, fear and conflict it is more important than ever to speak up and take a stand on critical justice issues.

A church cannot support or oppose a candidate, but we can encourage everyone to vote in the primary and general elections and help them make informed decisions. So dates and times of early voting will be printed in the bulletin announcements each week. It's too late to register for the primary election March 17<sup>th</sup>, but you have until October 5<sup>th</sup> to register for the November 3<sup>rd</sup> one.

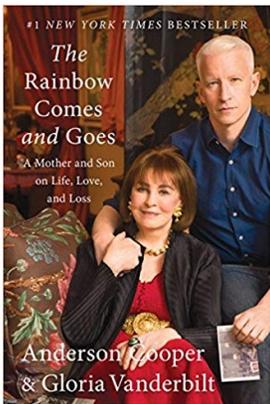
Early/Absentee voting is now underway. You can do so at the Erie County Board of Elections, 2900 Columbus Ave., Sandusky as follows: this week, Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.. Next week, Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. and Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.. On election day you must vote at your precinct. If you have questions, call the Board of Elections at 419-627-7601.

Shalom,  
Rev. Lenore



It's time for our annual **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering, the Lenten Offering of the UCC supporting disaster, refugee, and development activities. This year's theme is *Invest in Futures*. We will take this collection March 29<sup>th</sup>, but you can make a donation anytime during the month using an envelope from the back tables in the sanctuary.

**Supper Club** will participate in Sandusky's first Restaurant Week in Downtown Sandusky's Entertainment District. They will meet at Landmark Kitchen & Bar Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m.. If you plan to come, please sign up on the bulletin board at the back of the sanctuary.



**The Book Club** will meet on Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss *Small Great Things*. At that time the book for April will be distributed -. *The Rainbow Comes and Goes*. This is a touching and intimate correspondence between Anderson Cooper and his mother, Gloria Vanderbilt, offering timeless wisdom and a revealing glimpse into their lives. It's a beautiful and affectionate celebration of the universal bond between a parent and a child, and a thoughtful reflection on life, reminding us of the precious insight that remains to be shared, no matter our age.

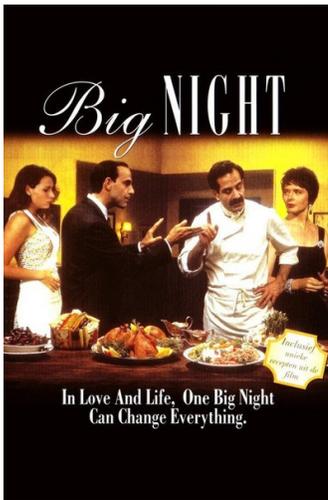
Copies of the book are available in the church office. All are welcome to the discussions held on the first Friday of the month at 2 p.m. in Frosty's Activity Room at the Parkvue Health Care Center.

**Daylight Savings Time** begins Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to move your clocks ahead an hour before you go to bed Saturday night.



Rev. Lenore will be enjoying vacation days March 16 - 25. If you have a pastoral emergency during that time, please contact Rev. Bob at 419-271-0086.

In Rev. Lenore's absence, we will celebrate **Laity Day** Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. This means members of the congregation will lead the service, including reading a sermon prepared by Rev. Bob. He is organizing this service, so if you are willing to help, please let him know.



**Movie Night**, March 24<sup>th</sup>, will feature *Big Night*. This 1996 film tells the story of two brothers, Primo (Tony Shalhoub) and Secondo (Stanley Tucci), whose Italian restaurant is on the brink of bankruptcy. Their only chance for success is to risk everything they own on an extravagant feast for bandleader Louis Prima. But their big night is complicated by a lovers' triangle, a sneaky restaurant rival, and the hilarious perfection of chef Primo. Showtime is 6:30 p.m.. Popcorn provided. All are welcome!

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March 29<sup>th</sup> is the fifth Sunday of the month and therefore **Loose Change Sunday**. Please start rounding up all the coins around your house and in your car and bring them to church that day. All the money collected goes into the Parish Relief Fund. This fund enables Rev. Lenore to assist members in need.

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### It's Time For A Peace Gathering

Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> the Center for Peace Through Understanding is hosting a Peace Gathering at the Library. Social time begins at 6:00 p.m. with the program starting promptly at 6:30.

Peace activists Don Bryant and Nuha Nawash will present *Community Outreach for Peace & Justice*. Bryant is a member of Cleveland Peace Action and leads the Greater Cleveland Immigrant Support Network as well as runs an "Anti-Islamophobia" Facebook page. Nawash is an electrical, control engineer with a passion for peace and justice. She is an advocate for Muslim women and works to promote peace locally as well as globally. There will be a question & answer session before the close of the program at 7:45.

**The North Coast Men's Chorus** will present *Our Great Big Broadway Show* on Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 8:00 p.m., and Sunday March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3:00 p.m. at the Allen Theatre at Playhouse Square, Cleveland. See the bulletin board or call 1-800-801-7407 for information and ticket prices. Glenn Gast is a member of the chorus.

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### Directory Updates

Neal Lindsley  
3800 Boardwalk Blvd. #220  
Sandusky, OH 44870

Kaitlyn Nemeth  
14621 Canal Loop  
Gulf Port, MS 39503

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## THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

To all members of First Congregational UCC,

*I would like to express my gratitude for the beautiful garden memory stone as well as your condolences and prayers during this painful loss of my Cathy. I am grateful to know you all.  
God bless you!*

*Timothy P. Work*

Since our last newsletter we received expressions of thanks from Care & Share of Erie County, United Church Homes (Parkvue) and Volunteers of America for our quarterly donations.



Marlee Wobser	3/2
Trudy Anderson	3/3
Marv Keller	3/4
Neal Lindsley	3/5
Kassidy Nemeth, Kathy & David Hunscke	3/11
Kim Files	3/12
Randi Ketchum	3/13
Tammy Samson	3/17
Libby Boros	3/18
Robin Pratt	3/22
Lenore Kure, James Smith, Laurie Yates	3/23
Sam Waugaman	3/24
Sue Nottke	3/26
Noah Wilhelm	3/31

### **We extend our sympathy to...**

... Cheryl & Jim Negrey on the passing of Cheryl's mom, Bonnie Karr, January 29<sup>th</sup>.

... Neal Lindsley on the death of his wife Mary (Fenker) January 29<sup>th</sup>. Her service was held at the church February 6<sup>th</sup>.

...Patsy Hicks on the passing of her sister, Sara Hill, on February 21<sup>st</sup>.

Memorials were received for Mary Fenker-Lindsley from Mary, Ken & Kathy Corso, Anne Eddowes, Jim & Jane Ann Eckelberry, the Thomas Feick Children (Fritz, Katie, Mylitta & Harriet), Judy Harris, The Sandusky Bonsai Club, James & Bonnie Semon, Frank Valli and Dick & Pat Widdoes.



Carrie Cample, Pam DeCaro, Marcus Fry, Kathy Hunscke, Debbi Keller, Neal Lindsley, Jacki Warren, Laurie Jo Webb, Alex Wilhelm, the Hesson, Hill, Keyes, Negrey and Wilson Families and our homebound members and friends: Ruth Baker, Anne Johnstone, Elemeda Schwartz, Christine Vroman

### EASTER FLOWERS

It's time to order Easter plants to enhance our Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. Daffodils, Hyacinths, Tulips and Easter Lilies are available for \$9.50 each.

*Please complete this form and return it to the church office by Sunday, March 31<sup>s</sup>.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Plant & Quantity:	Daffodil _____	Lily _____	Tulip _____	Hyacinth _____
			Red _____	Blue _____
			Pink _____	Pink _____
			Yellow _____	

Total Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to take my plant home after the Easter Service \_\_\_\_\_

My Easter plant is in *Memory* or *Honor* of (Circle one): \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name e)



## REPORTS FROM OUR BOARDS

### Christian Education

*Jacki Warren - Chairperson*

Members Patsy Hicks, Kathy Hunscke and Phyllis Bottoms met with Rev. Lenore after church on Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> for our "February" meeting because of upcoming vacation time and surgeries. (Kathy had surgery on February 6<sup>th</sup> and Jacki on February 19<sup>th</sup>).

**Parkvue Book Club:** Lenore will lead the discussion on February 7<sup>th</sup> of A Seat by the Hearth by Amy Clipston. Patsy will bring dessert and check on books for future months. The book for the March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult will be handed out.

**Study Group:** Lenore has ordered and downloaded the curriculum "Faithful Citizenship". Study of it will begin Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. and continue through Lent. Lenore found her copy of the book Silence is Not The Answer by George S. Johnson which will be read and discussed after the Lenten study.

**Center for Peace through Understanding:** Next meeting is Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. Rae has arranged for two speakers on peace activism to present. Questions: Who are they? What should we call it? Where will it be? Rae prefers it be at a place other than the church. She believes there would be better attendance. The library has been reserved, but we will probably need to start earlier (6:00 p.m.) because we need to be out of the library by 8:00 p.m. so we would need to wrap it up by 7:45. Details need to be worked out.

Our next regularly scheduled meeting is Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Phyllis Bottoms

### Board of Mission & Outreach

*Barb Petersen - Chairperson*

February 9, 2020

Present: Barbara Petersen, Chair, and Karen Mork

Old business/ongoing:

The Opening and Affirming Coalition, Erie County Senior Center, Volunteers of America, Ability Works Inc., United Church Homes, Heifer International and LGBT Community Center sent thank-you notes for our donations to them.

New Business:

We will accept a special collection for One Great Hour of Sharing at the end of March 2020. The collection will be announced with bulletin inserts, along with mission moments on March 22 and 29.

We decided to donate \$100 to Mercy Ships and \$100 to the Human Rights Campaign.

Next meeting will be March 8, 2020.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Mork, secretary

## Research & Investigation Team

*Meredith Holman, Chairperson*

Anyone asking questions about the sale of our building or wanting to see it should be referred to our realtor, John Bauer. We have had several prospective buyers walk through the building with him, one three times.

Members of our Team, along with several members of the Leadership Team, did a walk through of St. Paul Lutheran Church. We found out they are thinking of adding an earlier service on Sunday. This option is not off the table, however we do have other opportunities that we feel compelled to research and explore

There is a possibility of sharing space with Trinity United Methodist Church. Their leaders approached us about this and discussed it with Halley and Mark. Mark toured their facility at the corner of Jefferson and Wayne. Our Team then discussed their location, handicapped accessibility, amenities, and possibilities. They take a similar stance to us on the issue of homosexuality and being open to all people. They have even lost some members over this. They are willing to consider sharing space at our location. Halley has reached out to the head of their leadership, Gene Kidwell, and will be setting up tours at each church by mid-March.

We are pleased with our progress and feel we are moving along with options, possibilities, and a realtor who is bringing in prospective buyers. We are also confident God will lead us where we need to be (in our building or another).

## MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES



Once again, we will join other local congregations for supper and worship on the Wednesday evenings during Lent. We begin with a simple meal of soup and sandwiches at 6:00 p.m., followed by worship at 6:45. The first one will be March 4th at our church. Rev. Don Kuntz from Trinity United Methodist Church will deliver the sermon that evening. The theme this year is Spiritual Gifts. The weekly offering will benefit CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates). Each week Executive Director Terri Stephan will share a mission moment with us.

The other participating congregations are: First Presbyterian, The Community at Parkvue, St. Stephen United Church of Christ, and Trinity United Methodist. First Presbyterian is unable to host in their building because of problems with the floor in their fellowship hall, so they will host at Trinity United Methodist. The schedule for the remaining services is:

**March 11** - The Community at Parkvue (3800 Boardwalk Blvd.) Preacher - Rev. Lenore Kure

**March 18** - First Presbyterian hosts at Trinity United Methodist Church (214 E. Jefferson St.)  
Preacher - Rev. Dr. Richard Henderson

**March 25** - Trinity United Methodist Church (214 E. Jefferson St.) Preacher - Rev. Jerald Fenske

**April 1** - St. Stephen UCC (905 E. Perkins Ave.) Preacher - Rev. Cathy Lawrence