



431 Columbus Avenue
Sandusky, Ohio 44870
firstconguccsandusky.com

FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

Coronavirus Edition #3
April 8, 2020

JOIN OUR LIVE STREAM SERVICE APRIL 12TH at 10:00 a.m. EASTER SUNDAY



COVID-19 will not keep us from celebrating the resurrection of our Lord, even if we are alone together. Our Easter service, including the sacrament of holy communion, will live stream at 10:00 a.m. Sunday morning for all who are able to access it through our Facebook page (First Congregational United Church of Christ Sandusky OH) or website (firstconguccsandusky.com).

There are two options for participating in communion: 1) You can use whatever bread and juice or wine you have on hand at home. 2) Small, pre-filled and packaged communion cups with wafers are available if you live locally. Let Rev. Lenore know how many you need for your household and she will safely deliver them Friday or Saturday. Call her at 419-366-8729. The communion liturgy is enclosed for those participating in the service. The scripture for the day is John 20:1-18.



We didn't receive many orders for Easter plants before we had to close the church, but we will have enough to decorate the altar area for the service and then distribute them to our older members and friends. They were given by Gary Lickfet in memory of his wife Claudia, Samson Greenman & Meredith Holman in memory of Stephan Greenman and Marilyn & Al Smith, and Rev. Lenore in memory of her brother Russell Maier.

2016 Easter photo courtesy of Robin Pratt

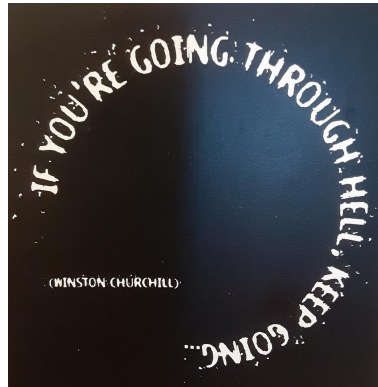


Years ago when I was in seminary and we were trying to learn how to manage all the work involved in the church during this final week of Lent, we called it Holly Hell Week! That term came to mind Sunday when I thought about the week ahead, not because of the work load of Holy week, but because of the dire prediction from our Surgeon General that this week also will be “our 9-11, our Pearl Harbor moment,” as COVID-19 is expected to peek in many areas across the country.

Remembering the suffering and death of Jesus is always emotionally draining this time of year, but we console ourselves knowing that his death is not God’s final word. The resurrection is coming! That’s why Easter is not cancelled this year, we will celebrate God raising Jesus from the dead even if it is alone together.

To emotionally survive this pandemic, think of it in similar terms. We may feel like we are entombed in our homes, isolated from our loved ones and cut off from the outside world, but this is not the end of our story. We will eventually be released and gather together again. Remember, God is still speaking! So, in the words of the Apostle Paul, we need to “press on.” (*Philippians 3:14*)

With that in mind, that’s probably why this magnet on my refrigerator grabbed my attention this morning. It’s a quote from Winston Churchill. I decided to make it my positive post of the day on Facebook.



Shalom, Rev. Lenore

Don't forget to vote! Because of COVID-19 voting has to be done through the mail. Details about how to do this were provided in last week's newsletter. If you have any questions, call the Erie County Board of Elections at 419-627-7601.

Upcoming Birthday: April 15 - Sam Greenman

In our prayers...



All those lonely and sheltering, the first responders and our first line medical staff, those still working for pharmacies, grocery stores and funeral homes, Pam DeCaro, Shannon Risk Dietrich, Beverly Earl & Sam Park, Kathy Hunscke, Jack Neese, Kelly O'Brien, Punky Porto, Betsy Reynolds & her co-workers, Linda Szempruch, Owen Thompson, Jacki Warren, the Conant Family.

Our homebound members are now all of us, but we want to especially remember Ruth Baker, Anne Johnstone, Elmeda Schwartz and Christine Vrom an

Our bills need to be paid even when we are not able to worship together in the building. If at all possible, **please mail in your pledges and contributions.**

In an on-going effort to help our members and friends stay in touch with each other contact info has been provided each week as space provides, for those who can't find their church directory. The list will be completed next week.

Marc Austin & Laurie Yates
1025 4th St.
Sandusky, OH 44870
419-357-3117

Joy Berquist
629 Edgewater
Sandusky, OH 44870
419-656-1029

Harry Boguszewski
Mat Justice
2018 Karl Ann Dr.
Sandusky, OH 44870
419-984-2773

Jerry Boros
7715 State Route 99
Sandusky, OH 44870
419-359-2177

Don & Rochelle Crisp
318 Huron Ave. Apt. #5
Sandusky, OH 44870
419-357-1726

Jessica Croll & Jon Florea
206 Center St.
Sandusky, OH 44870
419-975-5874

Kathryn David
1828 Monroe St.
Sandusky, OH 44870
419-626-0465

Laura Elliott
636 E. Adams St.
Sandusky, OH 44870

Judy Harris
4625 Pinewood Dr. #182
Sandusky, OH 44870
419-366-6277

Debbi Keller
5055 Providence Dr. #105
Sandusky, OH 44870
419-202-7521

Halley Leffler
4226 Windham Place South
Sandusky, OH 44870
419-621-1240

Ruth Maier
3800 Boardwalk Blvd. #110
Sandusky, OH 44870
419-621-0989

Bill Mayo
1508 Columbus Ave.
Sandusky, OH 44870
419-366-0472

Jack & Rhonda Neese
2519 E. Perkins Ave.
Sandusky, OH 44870
419-625-5345

Fred & Sue Nottke
9208 Berlin Rd.
Huron, OH 44839
419-433-3508

Dave Pinkman
232 Jackson St. #207
Sandusky, OH 44870
419-239-4075

What's new?

Evalyn Vroman is looking for puzzles to keep her busy during this time of isolation. If you have any, 750 pieces or less, please call Rev. Lenore and she will make arrangements to get them safely from you to her.



Meredith Holman was on the front page of the *Sandusky Register* April 7th in this tribute to health care workers. She's in the upper left photo with her co-workers at the hospital holding signs that say, "We miss our volunteers! Thank you for all you do for Firelands. Stay Home Stay Healthy."

Shortly after we are able to worship in our building again, we will be **taking in new members**. Don & Rochelle Crisp and Jessica Croll & Jon Florea have decided to become official members of our church family. If anyone else is considering membership, please contact Rev. Lenore.

We received this **Easter card** from the orphanage in Ukraine we supported with health care supplies and a financial donation when Rev. Lenore took a mission trip there five years ago.



*Wishing you a very Blessed Easter
With much love,
the children and workers of the
Good Samaritan House of Mercy
Charitable Organization*

If you have news you would like to share, call Rev. Lenore at 419-366-8729 or e-mail the church at firstcongrucc@aol.com.