



431 Columbus Avenue
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FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

Coronavirus Edition #1 March 26, 2020

Alone Together...

Doing Church In A Whole New Way



In an effort to provide Sunday morning worship for as many members as possible in this time of confinement, we have plunged into the world of live-streaming! This is a new adventure for us so we are learning as we go, using the simple equipment we have. If you have access to the internet, our live-streaming service is available to you directly through our Facebook page, or you can access it through the church's website.

Once on the website (<http://www.firstconguccsandusky.com>): 1 - scroll almost to the bottom of the page to where you see the words in bold "follow us" and "F" in a circle, 2 - double click on the "F". This will take you directly to our Facebook page.

3 - When you are on the Facebook page, look at the options under the cross on the left side. Double click on "live" and you will be where you need to be. The service will start at 10:00, but Rev. Lenore will chat for a few minutes before that for those who tune in early.

If you have any problems, call or text Meredith at 419-357-6161. She will respond as soon as she can. If you miss it, don't worry, it will

remain on the page. You can check it out later.

Have your bible handy to follow along with the scripture readings of the day (this week: Ezekiel 37:1-14 and John 11:1-45). If you have a prayer request or joy to share, post it on the comments feed at the start of the service. That way it will be received in time to be shared. There's a 15-second delay.

Whether you watch the live-stream or not, you are encouraged to participate in the offering by mailing in your contribution or donating through the website. We still have bills, even though we aren't meeting in the sanctuary!



I've never cared much for Facebook, but it suddenly has become vital in our efforts to stay connected to one another during the pandemic. Beyond that, many of the posts make me laugh and laughter has always been essential to my well being.

Today there was a post that said, "Two weeks ago when we set the clocks back an hour we didn't realize we were about to enter the Twilight Zone." That pretty well describes how I, and probably most pastors, feel these days. None of us have ministered through a pandemic before. There are no established guidelines of what to do, so we are "flying by the seat of our pants," as my father would say, sure to make decisions some will criticize.

Knowing the majority of our worshipers had informally voted on March 15th to stay open, I was saddened when it became apparent we weren't going to be able to do that. So my first concern was trying to figure out a way to offer a worship experience without you being at the church. I also need to come up with a plan to try and keep us all connected for the duration of our confinement.

Rev. Bob sent me a video describing how to live stream worship on Facebook and websites. I forwarded it to Meredith asking if she thought it was possible for us to do that. From that moment on she was determined to figure it out, and she did! Not wanting to ask anyone else to risk their health, I decided to keep the "production crew" to just the two of us.

Once the live stream plan was in place I began contacting all of you to let you know we would be closed at least until Easter and would live stream as long as possible. I did this through e-mail, Facebook posting, texts and calling. I also reminded you I was just a phone call away and would gladly pick up and safely deliver groceries or other available supplies as needed, as well as make myself available if you just need someone to talk to.

Having now survived our first live stream, I've come up with a plan for staying in touch with you. Each week I'll create a mini-newsletter like this and make as many personal contacts as I can. That way I can keep everyone informed on how everyone else is doing. I am also posting something positive on my personal Facebook page every day. If you are not already one of my Facebook "friends" and would like to see them, please send me a friend request. I will close with my favorite post so far.



Being a tree hugger is a great blessing these days when I can't hug people. Don't panic - look for the positive - keep washing your hands!

Reading between the lines, I hope you realize how difficult this situation is for your touchy-feely, people-person pastor. We are all in this Twilight Zone (alone) together. Please pray for me, as I pray for you.

Shalom, Rev. Lenore

We extend our deepest sympathy to the Farrar family on the tragic death of Logan Farrar. Logan was part of our Sunday School many years ago when his father, Chuck, was our custodian.

In our prayers...



All those lonely and sheltering, the first responders and our first line medical staff, those still working for pharmacies and grocery stores, Ernie Bowman, Shannon Risk Dietrich, Kathy Hunscke, Debbi Keller, Punky Porto, Beth Schmale, Jacki Warren, the Farrar, Kennedy, Bowling and Kuerbitz Families

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

In case you can't find your church directory and want to reach out to these folks, here is their contact information.

Ruth Baker
The Meadows Room 109
3916 E. Perkins Ave.
Huron, OH 44839

Jud Brandes
11 Slade Ave. Apt #810
Pikesville, MD 21208

Jeanne Gilbert
333 E. Water St. Apt. #7
Sandusky, OH 44870
419-626-5774

Harvey Heys
115 Franklin St. Apt. #711
Sandusky, OH 44870
419-366-6277

Anne Johnstone
3800 Boardwalk Blvd
Sandusky, OH 44870

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

Gene Finnegan & John Rainey
3800 Boardwalk Blvd. #301
Sandusky, OH 44870
419-624-9746
finneganrainey@yahoo.com

Elmeda Schwartz
5711 Tiffin Ave.
Castalia, OH 44824-9710

Big T (Johnnie) Turner
215 E. Shoreline Dr. Apt. #811
Sandusky, OH 44870

Christine Vroman
1456 Judy Lane
Sandusky, OH 44870

Evalyn Vroman
115 Franklin St. Apt.#412
Sandusky, OH 44870

Jacki Warren
Kentwood Rehab
1227 West Wheeler Rd. #175
Augusta, GA 30909
jackiwar@gmail.com

Pvt 2 Wilhelm, Alexander 4th Platoon
A Co 1 - 13th Infantry Regiment
5482 Jackson Blvd.
Fort Jackson, SC 29207

What's new?

Marlee Wobser made it safely back home from Poland and will soon be done with her 14-day quarantine,

Jacki Warren continues to recover from back surgery at a rehab facility near her son's home in Augusta, Georgia. She sends greetings to everyone and was happy to have worshiped with us via the live-stream service.

Thanks to his daughter Randi, **Harvey Heys** was also able to view the live-stream service.

Punky Porto had a knee replacement earlier in the month and is now home recovering.

Thanks to **Patsy**, our Sunday School children are receiving their lessons in the mail.

Charles is now running his travel agency from home and has jokingly said he's going to put his mother to work!

Karen Mork's newest granddaughter is scheduled to be born this Friday, March 27th.

Meredith & Sam were able to get their marriage license just before the Court House closed. They will be married as planned, but the celebration and honeymoon are postponed.

Upcoming birthdays: **Noah Wilhelm** - March 31, **Patsy Hicks** - April 1, **Paul Fries** - April 3.

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.