



431 Columbus Avenue
Sandusky, Ohio 44870
firstconguccsandusky.com

FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

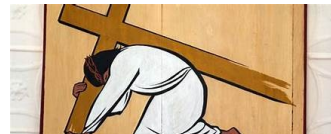
Coronavirus Edition #2
April 2, 2020

JOIN OUR LIVE STREAM SERVICE APRIL 5TH at 10:00 a.m. PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

As we begin Holy Week, hear the story of
Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem
as told in Matthew 21:1-11.



*"Hosanna to the son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord. Hosanna
In the highest heaven!"*



Then follow him to the cross:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Matthew 26:14-16 | The Plot to Kill Jesus |
| Matthew 26:17-30 | The Last Supper |
| Matthew 26:31-35 | Prophecy of Denial |
| Matthew 26:36-46 | Gethsemane |
| Matthew 26:47-56 | Betrayal & Arrest |
| Matthew 26:57-68 | Trial |
| Matthew 26:69-75 | Peter's Denial |
| Matthew 27:1-26 | Jesus Before Pilate |
| Matthew 27:27-54 | Jesus is Crucified |
| Matthew 27:55-56 | Women at the Cross |
| Matthew 27:57-61 | Jesus is Buried |
| Matthew 27:62-66 | Securing the Tomb |



From the
MINISTER

Looks like we're going to be alone together for at least another month. In the meantime, we are seeing Americans unite as never before to fight this "invisible enemy."

We just can't give enough praise to the emerging heroes of this crisis - front line doctors and nurses as well as the other hospital personnel, pharmacy workers and all those keeping the essential businesses going in order to make this nightmare as bearable as possible.

In comparison, it's easy to think of ourselves as insignificant or useless in fighting this battle. Not so! Each and every one of us who is sheltering in place is playing a vital role in flattening the COVID-19 curve. Dr. Amy Acton reminds us of this every day during the Governor's press conference.

If you are healthy and wanting to do more to help in our community, call 419-515-6954. Leave your name and someone will call you back to let you know where you can volunteer.

There is something else we all can do. It's something we at First Congregational UCC are known for - our advocacy for the persecuted and vulnerable who live on the fringe of society. We need to stand up and be the voice for those who are being hurt the most by the pandemic. That would be those who were already living at or below the poverty level, as well as those with mental health and addiction issues. And let's not forget the elderly who are now being seen by some as disposable.

Yesterday I was made aware of another urgent need for advocacy. I received an e-mail from Kelly Choi, a Korean-American student and member of the March For Our Lives Youth Power Council. She said since the spread of COVID-19 there has been an increase in racist attacks (over 650 just last week) on Asian-Americans across the country. They are being blamed for the pandemic which their persecutors refer to as "kung flu" or the "Chinese virus." Of course this claim is inaccurate, xenophobic and harmful, even though the President himself used one of those terms several times in a press conference last week.

What can we do? Ms. Choi says, "For our non-Asian allies who want to show solidarity, lift up your voices and faces on your social media, and defend us against any racist rhetoric you may hear. Pushing back against these lies is how we can stop violence from escalating. By speaking up, you can quite literally save our lives."

This issue hits very close to home for me. My nephew is Korean. I am concerned for his safety, and equally concerned about the xenophobia in our country that is once again rearing its ugly head.

Now is the time to be globally united, not divided. Let's pray as Jesus did, "that all may be one."

Shalom,
Rev. Lenore

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

April 5 - Harry Boguszewski

April 15 - Sam Greenman

April 16 - Kyndra Yates

April 17 - Debbi Keller

April 20 - Eric Warren

April 22 - Jessica Croll

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, Pam DeCaro, Don, Shannon Risk Dietrich, Kathy Hunscke, Debbi Keller, Jack Neese, Punky Porto, Betsy Reynolds & her co-workers, Beth Schmale, Jacki Warren, the Conant, Farrar, 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

STAY HOME. STILL VOTE.

EXTENDED PRIMARY ELECTION - Tuesday, April 28, 2020

If you already voted early or voted by mail based on the original March 17th Primary Election date and returned your ballot back to the Erie County Board of Elections, there is no need to vote again. Your ballot will count for the Primary Election .

If you have not voted yet, be aware that with only a few exceptions, there will be NO in-person Voting. It will be done by mail.

If you previously requested your ballot by mail, received it, but have not returned it back to the Erie County Board of Elections, there are several options on how to return your ballot to be counted. See instructions below on options to return ballots.

If you have not voted yet, to vote by mail for the Primary Election - Tuesday, April 28, 2020, you MUST request and complete an Absentee Ballot Application by 12noon on Saturday, April 25, 2020. Call the Erie County Board of Elections to have an application mailed to you at 419.627.7601.

OPTIONS TO RETURN YOUR APPLICATION

Your application may be mailed to the Erie County Board of Elections, 2900 Columbus Avenue-Room 101, Sandusky, OH 44870, or dropped off into the secured drop box at the Erie County Service Building, 2900 Columbus Avenue, Sandusky. The drop box will be available 24/7 outside the building.

Once your application is processed, a ballot will be mailed to you. When filling it out remember the acceptable dates to fill in of the Extended Primary are March 17, 2020 or April 28, 2020. And don't forget to fill in the political party ballot,

OPTIONS TO RETURN YOUR BALLOT

Once you have voted your ballot may be returned by mail in the provided postage-paid envelope to the Erie County Board of Elections, 2900 Columbus Avenue, Sandusky 44870, postmarked no later than Monday, April 27, 2020, AND arrive at the Erie County Board of Elections no later than May 8, 2020.

NOTE: It is recommended that you take your ballot envelope into the Post Office to have the clerk manually postmark the envelope. If the envelope is not properly postmarked your ballot will not be counted.

NOTE: The U.S. Post Office estimates it could take 2-5 days each for applications and ballots to be mailed to voters. GIVE YOURSELF PLENTY OF TIME TO RECEIVE YOUR BALLOT!

You may also drop off your ballot in the envelopes provided into the secured drop box located outside of the Erie County Service Building, 2900 Columbus Avenue, Sandusky 44870. The drop box will be available 24/7 outside the building. If you decide to dropoff your ballot, it must be received no later than 7:30pm on Tuesday, April 28, 2020.

****PLEASE BE AWARE OF DEADLINES!****

Reaching out to others: In order for members to stay in touch during this time of confinement, contact info is being provided each week, as space permits, for those who can't find their church directory. More names will be listed next week. In the meantime, if you would like info not yet published, call the church office.

Choir Members not previously listed

Bob (Phyllis) Bottoms 601 Castalia St. Bellevue, OH 44811 419-483-5849	Meredith Holman/Sammy Greenman 733 W. Park St. Sandusky, OH 44870 419-357-6161
Sari Kelley P.O. Box 1347 Sandusky, OH 44870 614-579-2074	Karen Mork 513 E. Madison St. Sandusky, OH 44870 419-626-6895
Kathy Hunscke 214 Washington Ct. Sandusky, OH 44870 419-357-6762	Barb Petersen 7141 E. Bayshore Dr. Marblehead, OH 43440-9510 419-734-4665
Robin Pratt 516 Pierce St. Sandusky, OH 44870 419-626-1903	Tim Work 509 52 nd St. Sandusky, OH 44870 419-271-2227

Study Group participants not previously listed

Glenn Gast 1205 Springdale Dr. Apt 6 Sandusky, OH 44870 419-357-2945	Patsy Hicks 5807 Cambridge Circle Sandusky, OH 44870 614-805-4255
Susan Meyer 401 W Shoreline Dr. Sandusky, OH 44870 937-671-3776	Jim & Cheryl Negrey 1109 Sheltered Brook Dr. Huron, OH 44839 419-602-3227
Marlee Wobser 1103 Erie St. Sandusky, OH 44870 419-602-3604	Maureen Wright 1639 Willow Dr. Sandusky, OH 44870 440-320-7475

Church Officers & Board Members not previously listed

Scarlet Berry 5504 McCartney Rd. Sandusky, OH 44870 419-624-2385	Kim Nemeth 1413 Shelby St. Sandusky, OH 44870 419-656-1746
Mark & Cathy Pifer 1627 Cedar Point Rd. Sandusky, OH 44870 419-626-2626	Bill Roche 1303 Shelby St. Sandusky, OH 44870 917-929-3240

Dave Shipley
715 Warren St.
Sandusky, OH 44870
419-624-1340

Nette & Kathie Simon
118 East Parish St.
Sandusky, OH 44870
330-234-6344

What's new?

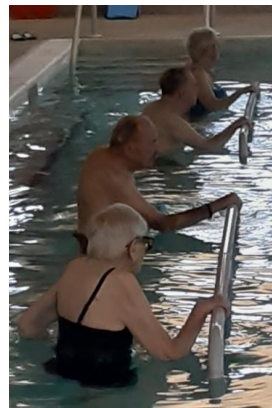


Meet Virginia Eileen Kennedy, Karen Mork's granddaughter born March 27th, weighing in at 5 lbs. 15 ozs.. She and mother Melanie are doing well.

Jacki Warren is out of rehab and continuing recovery from back surgery at her son Eric's home. Her address there is 4349 Azalea Dr., Evans, GA 30809.

We received a **thank you** letter from Mercy Ships for our recent donation.

Our members living at Parkvue are doing what they can to help fellow residents endure our time of sheltering. On the left, John & Gene bring fun and prizes to others with the traveling spinning wheel. On the right, Neal Lindsley subs for the water yoga instructor who isn't permitted in the building. He's the third person from the front. That's Rev. Lenore's mother, Ruth Maier, at the beginning of the line.



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.