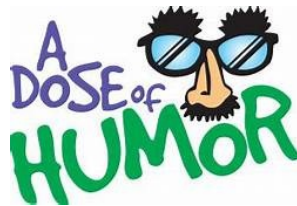




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FIRST  
CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

Coronavirus Edition #4  
April 16, 2020



## JOIN OUR LIVE STREAM SERVICE APRIL 19<sup>TH</sup> at 10:00 a.m. HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY

If it's true that laughter is the best medicine, we need our traditional Holy Humor Sunday service now more than ever during this pandemic. Rev. Lenore will continue our celebration of the Easter season with a light-hearted worship experience for those who join the live stream service at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. She is looking for jokes and stories to share that morning, so please send yours to [firstcongrucc@aol.com](mailto:firstcongrucc@aol.com).

For those who like to follow along when the scripture is read, the lectionary reading for Sunday is John 20:19-31. This is the story of Doubting Thomas. While not at all funny, Rev. Lenore's sermon, Doubt: "The Ants in the Pants" of Faith, will relate to it in a humorous way.



From the  
**MINISTER**

"How are you doing?" That used to be a casual comment made somewhat automatically with no real thought going into it or interest in the response. Now, in the midst of the pandemic, it has become a sincere inquiry into the state of well being of another, backed with a sincere desire to help if there is a need.

When that question is asked of me, my response is totally honest. This is a very tough time to be in ministry. I am busier than usual trying to stay in touch with our members and friends, asking them that same question. My concern for the health and safety of our church family and my biological family is deep.

However, I have a growing concern for the needy in our community as well, those who don't have a family or church looking out for them. The number of people calling the church or coming to the door

needing essentials is rapidly increasing. We don't have the funds to help, but I know some of you do and aren't sure where to send a financial contribution.

I have three suggestions. The Erie County Community Foundation has established an Emergency Response Fund to support local non-profits experiencing an increase in operations as they respond to help people during the COVID-19 crisis. Send donations to them through their web site, [eriefoundation.org](http://eriefoundation.org) or mail to 135 E. Washington Row, Sandusky. If you have questions, call 419-621-9690.

OHGO is a relatively new non-profit working closely with Second Harvest. It now serves nearly 3,000 people a week after increasing to weekly mobile food pantries from twice monthly. Send donations to them through their web site, [ohgoreach.org](http://ohgoreach.org). If you have questions, call 419-602-0856.

The Salvation Army is distributing groceries Monday-Friday. Their number of clients has skyrocketed. Two weeks ago they were closed for two days because they ran out of food! Donate through their web site, [salvationarmyohio.org/sandusky](http://salvationarmyohio.org/sandusky) or mail to 3333 Columbus Ave., Sandusky. Call them at 419-626-3862.

If you aren't in a position to help financially, I know you can help with the loneliness many are feeling these days by participating in Ohio's "Strive for Five" challenge. Every day reach out to five people with a card, a phone call or a text. If you aren't sure what to say, simply start out asking, "How are you doing?"

Shalom, Rev. Lenore

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**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 the April 2<sup>nd</sup> newsletter. If you have any questions, call the Erie County Board of Elections at 419-627-7601.

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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.**

#### Upcoming Birthdays

April 16 - Kyndra Yates

April 17 - Debbi Keller

**We extend our deepest sympathy** to Patsy Hicks on the passing of her sister-in-law Peggy Keyes last Friday, and to Evalyn Vroman on the death of her sister that same day.

#### 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, our nation, Pam DeCaro, Shannon Risk Dietrich, Beverly Earl & Sam Park, Kathy Hunscke, Drew Kreimes, Jack Neese, Kelly O'Brien, Punky Porto, Betsy Reynolds & her co-workers, Linda Szempruch, Owen Thompson, Jacki Warren, the Groff, Siegel, Vroman and Wilson Families, and Don Keyes & Family.

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

Two days ago Governor DeWine introduced the “**Strive for Five**” challenge initiated by Ohio mental health agencies. Everyone is encouraged to reach out to five people every day for the next 30 days in an effort to reduce stress, loneliness and anxiety during this time of isolation. You can easily do this using the list of contact information for our members and friends that has been included in the past three newsletters and is completed below.

Pat Hartley  
4708 Venice Hts. Blvd. #203  
Sandusky, Ohio 44870  
419-366-0605

Ron & Punky Porto  
2902 Windsor Bridge Circle  
Sandusky, Ohio 44870

Stuart Rhea  
6240 Shadyside Dr.  
Vermilion, OH 44089  
440-967-0830

Barbara Rosin  
4707 Venice Road Lot #5  
Sandusky, Ohio 44870

Ali & Rihab Salhieh  
4998 Tiffin Ave.  
Castalia, OH 44824  
419-357-4672

Tammy Samson  
305 Eagle Point Rd.  
Rossford, OH 43460  
419-367-9961

Don Schlett  
1305 S. Lake Wilmer Dr. #203A  
Sandusky, OH 44870  
419-624-9454

Charles Scroggy  
218 W. Bogart Rd.  
Sandusky, OH 44870  
419-626-6473

James Smith  
106 Northwest St.  
Bellevue, OH 44811  
419-602-3574

Cheryl Talley-Sharp  
2801 Sweetbriar Dr.  
Sandusky, OH 44870  
419-625-8616

Diane Wagner  
105 Gorman Ct.  
Monroe, OH 45050  
513-360-0147

Sam Waugaman  
2113 Karl Ann Dr.  
Sandusky, OH 44870  
419-603-0188

## What's new?

While the building is closed, our custodian, **Marc Austin**, has been busy working on a number of special projects like cleaning out the boiler room and other cluttered areas around the church. Now that the growing season has begun, mowing and yard work is also keeping him busy. That's been made easier with the new mower we recently purchased. He is pictured here placing the butterfly on the altar cross for Easter Sunday.



Our **live stream services** are being widely viewed. We know that 133 people watched our Easter service and there were 166 likes, comments and shares on that post. Now if some of those new people would send in a donation to support our mission and ministry, we could truly rejoice over those figures, but so far no one has!



After ringing our bell at noon on Easter in solidarity with churches all over the country proclaiming the good news of the Resurrection, Rev. Lenore delivered Easter plants to several members and friends of the church. Deliveries were made to **Ruth Baker, Georgianna from the Book Club, Jeanne Gilbert, Harvey Heys, Anne Johnstone, Debbi Keller, Neal Lindsley, Ruth Maier, Elmeda Swartz, John Rainey & Gene Finnegan, Ali & Rihab Salhieh, Christine Vroman and Evalyn Vroman.**

When she stopped at **Jeanne's** she was able to chat (at a distance) with her daughter Kathy who was visiting from Columbus. In the lobby of Harborview she was able to celebrate communion with **Evalyn** and **Harvey**.