



431 Columbus Avenue
Sandusky, Ohio 44870
firstconguccsandusky.com

FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

May 2020

OPEN FOR BUSINESS but NOT as usual

May 3rd at 10:00 a.m.

Live Stream Still Available

We are not encouraging or discouraging anyone to come to the church. For some we are an essential business so, like the grocery stores, we will be open to anyone willing to adhere to our strict safety guidelines: everyone must wear a mask (they will be available for anyone needing one), hands must be sanitized upon entering the sanctuary (remember you touched a door handle and a handrail or two elevator buttons to get to the sanctuary), and social distancing must be practiced (given the large size of our sanctuary and the small size of our congregation, this can be done.) There will be no Sunday School or fellowship after the service and a new ritual will replace our traditional passing of the peace during worship.

Scripture: Psalm 23 & John 10:1-10
Sermon Title: The Good Shepherd

Because of copyright restrictions, we cannot have organ/piano duets while live streaming, but we will have music this week. We will also be celebrating communion. If you are joining us at home, please have your bread and juice or wine ready. The communion liturgy appears at the end of this newsletter.



From the
MINISTER

I recently participated in an E-Forum offered by Eden Theological Seminary titled "Psalms for a Pandemic." The presenter was Dr. Clint McCann. He related a number of Psalms to the pandemic.

Several Psalms, like 91 and 46, address fear and the comfort we can find in God being our refuge and strength. Psalm 33, can respond to the misunderstanding some people have, and spread, that God is punishing us because of a certain group of individuals they don't like. I totally agree with McCann that God is with us and for us, not against us.

What most interested me in the presentation was McCann's interpretation of Psalm 87 as a call to celebrate "the unity of the human community." That should be a lesson we've learned over the past two months - we belong to each other and all creation.

Some say the pandemic is "the great equalizer," but McCann said it is "the great revealer" of class division and how disconnected we truly are to each other and the Earth. We need change and renewal, not a return to the way we were.

This had me thinking about a new ritual of passing the peace that will help us feel connected to one another while being six feet apart, and to everyone else around the world. It will also remind us every week of our call to be intentional in working for peace, God's shalom. Shalom is a Hebrew word translated as peace but with a richer meaning of harmony extending to all creation.

Here is my idea. After the Assurance of Pardon we will do a "peace wave" followed by singing *Let There Be Peace on Earth*.

*Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father, We are family.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.*

*Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.*

Because of copyright restrictions, we will have to wait until Pentecost, when we are no longer live streaming, to sing it. I look forward to that day and hope you do too.

Shalom, Rev. Lenore

Church Activities Going On In May

May 3, 10, 17, 24 Worship at 10 a.m. (Live Stream & In-Person)
There will be no Sunday School or fellowship time.

May 12 Leadership Team Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

May 27 Research & Exploration Team Meets at 6:45 p.m.

May 31 Pentecost Worship at 10 a.m. (No Live Stream)
*If you attend, please wear red.
There will be no Sunday School or fellowship time.*

Study Group, Book Club, Supper Club and Movie Night will not take place this month. The **Shoreline worship services** are indefinitely postponed.

Mark Pifer invites your suggestions about how to reach out to the ever-growing number of needy in our neighborhood to replace the **Community Breakfast** that was scheduled for May 30th.

MASKS NEEDED

Are you or someone you know making masks? Flat Rock Community Services is in desperate need of masks for their clients and residents. This Christ-centered, non-profit organization serves people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. If you are able to help them, contact Rev. Lenore a.s.a.p..

SHOWER OF GOOD WISHES

We have two members with significant birthdays this month, Anne Johnstone and Evalyn Vroman. Anne will be 99 on the 12th, Evalyn will be 90 on the 26th. Please send them birthday greetings or give them a call on their special day. Anne's address is 3800 Boardwalk Blvd., Sandusky, OH 44870 and her phone number is 419-625-3062. Evalyn can be reached at 419-626-1379. Her address is 115 Franklin St. Apt. 412, Sandusky, OH 44870.

May Birthdays (no anniversaries)

Rhonda Roberts	5/2
Olivia Badamy, Rhonda Neese	5/5
Anne Johnstone	5/12
Punky Porto	5/13
Marty Anderson	5/16
Johnnie Lee Turner, Jr.	5/17
Glenn Gast	5/18
Evalyn Vroman	5/26

Congratulations to Kim Nemeth! She has worked two jobs her entire 40-year career, but on May 17th she will retire from Life Flight.

First Congregational UCC,

Thank you so much for the use of the beautiful church.

We both very much appreciate it, absolutely more than you will ever know.

This church is such an amazing group of people and a beautiful building.

Thank you. Please accept this small donation as a token of our appreciation.

Many thanks, Meredith & Samson Greenman.

PRAYER LIST

Jessica Croll, Pam DeCaro, Kathy Hunscke, Drew Kreimes, Jacki Warren

Requests related to the pandemic: All those lonely and sheltering, those with depression, anxiety or other mental health issues, the first responders and our first line medical staff, those working for pharmacies, grocery stores and funeral homes, our nation, Shannon Risk Dietrich, Beverly Earl & Sam Park, Kelly O'Brien, Betsy Reynolds & her co-workers and the Berry Family.

Our homebound members and friends: Ruth Baker, Anne Johnstone, Elmeda Schwartz and Christine Vroman



REPORTS FROM OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM AND BOARDS

Leadership Team

Because of COVID-19 the Team did not physically meet in April. On April 28th, through e-mail, Team members decided to reopen the church on May 3rd with proper precautions (see above)

Board of Mission & Outreach

Barb Petersen - Chairperson

Traditionally, we have held our Blanket Collection on Mother's Day. However, in light of us not getting into the full swing of reopening until the end of the month, the collection will be taken on May 31st. Of course, your contribution can be turned in any time all month. Envelopes are available on the back tables in the sanctuary..

In a recent letter of appreciation, Matthew Stevens, Director of Congregational Giving at Church World Service, thanked us for helping in the pandemic through our past support of the Blanket program. Our donations, along with those of other churches, are providing blankets and hygiene kits to the Bowery Mission in New York City. We all know how hard New York has been hit by the pandemic.

The Bowery Mission is a shelter serving hundreds of people every day. While they can't provide showers for all of them, they can help keep their clients clean by giving them hygiene kits. They also keep them warm with fresh blankets and linens on a nightly basis.

In addition to helping shelters and agencies here in the U.S., CWS helps to provide primary health care for families in need all over the world. In such far-flung places as Sudan, Pakistan and Nicaragua, CWS gives comfort and care to moms and babies, and helps children get the nutrition they need to grow up strong and healthy.

"Thank you for being part of a faith community who keeps love in motion," Stevens said. Let's keep that ball rolling by giving as generously as possible during this time of great need.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

May 3, 2020

Invitation

This is the joyful feast of the people of God.

**Men and women, youth and children,
come from the east and the west,
from the north and the south,
and gather about Christ's table.**

Communion Prayer, including the Sanctus

**Holy, holy, holy,
God of love and majesty,
The whole universe speaks of your glory,
O God, Most High.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God!
Hosanna in the highest!**

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Call to the Supper

Partaking of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ's body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another and send us forth into the world with courage, service and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Closing Hymn He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought

Benediction

Postlude

