



1158 Cleveland Rd.
Sandusky, Ohio 44870
firstconguccsandusky.com

FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

March 2021



From the
MINISTER

As we were cleaning out my mother's apartment, we made a surprising discovery. She not only collected poetry, she had even written a few poems herself. Most of her collection was in a large scrapbook, but we also found other poems stashed here, there and everywhere.

As a tribute to this amazing mother of six, who lived faithfully for 98 years, I want to share the following poem. It gives insight into who she was, and who I strive to be. Without access to a copier, she wrote it out by hand on note paper. Above the title she wrote "My favorite poem." It was written by Grace Crowell (1877-1969), a popular American poet. Back in the day her work appeared in hundreds of magazines and newspapers.

The Stewardship of Giving

by Grace Crowell

God loaned me a life and I must pay
Him back a portion of each day.
In loving service, I must give
a part of every day I live
in thoughtful, kindly deeds to others
who are my sisters and my brothers.
God loaned me coins I cannot spend
for any wasteful, selfish end.
They are a trust that I must hold
as sacred as all the world's bright gold.
They belong to him and in my spending
I must repay his gracious lending.
God put his love within my heart,
a love I ever must impart
to a world in desperate need of care.
All things God gave me, I must share.
This is the stewardship of living;
a spontaneous and a joyous giving.

There is no doubt in my mind that when the beautiful soul of Ruth Evelyn Maier reached the gates of heaven she was welcomed with the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant." Matthew 25:23

Shalom , Rev. Lenore

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 14th. Be sure to move your clocks ahead an hour before you go to bed Saturday night.



Rev. Lenore will be enjoying vacation days March 20 - 26. If you have a pastoral emergency during that time, please contact Rev. Bob at 419-271-0086. He will be preaching on March 21st.



Vicki Deissler, Iretta Gast & Ruth Asmus, Sam Greenman Sr., Debbi Keller, Rev. Kure & the Maier Family, Christian Moore, Samantha Smith, Tim Sprouse, Brittany Stahl, and the Detwiler Family. Homebound: Ruth Baker, Anne Johnstone, Elmeda Schwartz and Christine Vroman

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARY

Marlee Wobser	3/2
Trudy Anderson	3/3
Marv Keller	3/4
Neal Lindsley	3/5
Kassidy Nemeth, Kathy & David Hunscke	3/11
Kim Files	3/12
Randi Ketchum	3/13
Tammy Samson	3/17
Libby Boros	3/18
Robin Pratt	3/22
Lenore Kure, James Smith, Laurie Yates	3/23
Sam Waugaman	3/24
Sue Nottke	3/26
Noah Wilhelm	3/31

We extend our sympathy to...

Rev. Lenore and the Maier family on the passing of her mother, Ruth Maier, on February 4th. A private family service was held at the church before internment at Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery in Rittman.



Memorials were received for Ruth Maier from Rev. Dan Busch, Judy Harris, Neal Lindsley, David & Laurel Maier, Rich & Lee Nichols, Rev. Ed Shelly, Marlee & Gene Wobser

Did you know you can help the church budget by donating your used ink and toner cartridges? Staples gives us a \$2.00 rebate for every one we recycle with them (up to 20 a month). That means we could earn \$240 this year if we turn in the maximum each month. So far we've done that in January and February. Let's keep the trend going for the rest of the year! There is a box for your donations at the back of the sanctuary.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

Since our last newsletter we received letters of thanks from Crossroad Child & Family Services and the Volunteers of America for our quarterly donations.

On behalf of my family I wish to express our gratitude for the many expressions of sympathy and support that have been extended to us as we grieve the loss of my mother. We are especially grateful for the memorials that were made to the church in her honor. ~ Rev. Lenore



The first Church Life meeting was held February 9th. Until the beginning of next year this will replace the monthly Leadership Team meeting.

Scarlet Berry, our Treasurer, attended to the first item of business, familiarizing every one with the details of the monthly finance report. Rev. Lenore reported that the AA group has resumed their meetings and the Unitarians are renting some storage space from us so that will increase our monthly income a little.

The lawsuit against the former buyer of the old building who backed out has not progressed. We are still waiting for our attorney to give us a cost estimate for filing in Franklin County so we can decide whether to file there or in Erie County. It will be a lengthy process with probably little financial gain for us, but by suing we may be able to keep someone else from being taken advantage of by this "sham company."

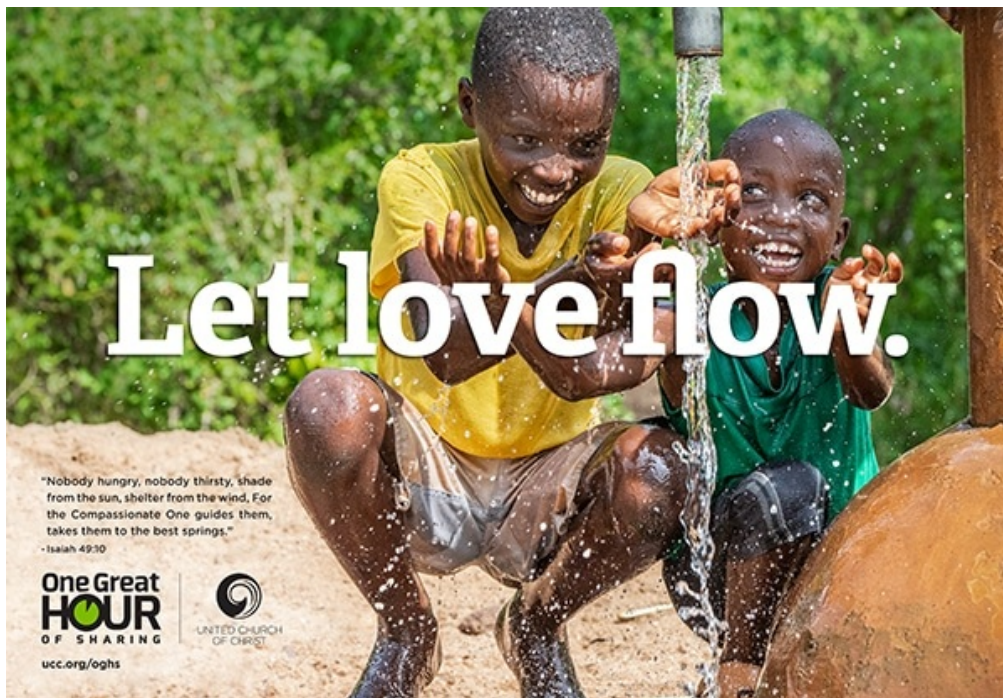
There have been more maintenance issues at the old building. Robin took care of them temporarily.

Both the Board of Mission & Outreach and the Fund Raising Committee need more members. This needs to be brought to the congregation's attention.

There was a discussion about how we will go about promoting the church once the pandemic is over in an effort to get new members. It was suggested that we advertise in the Serving Our Seniors magazine. It is widely distributed and no church advertises in it.

We need to have a Congregational Meeting on February 14th so members can vote on the offer that was recently made to purchase our old building. It is a sound offer and falls within the guidelines set by the Leadership Team. We will not be financing the purchase. If all goes according to plan, we will receive \$204,812.50 after the fees and expenses are paid. Of course, we have learned that nothing is a done deal until the process is complete.

All church members are invited and encouraged to attend the next Church Life meeting Tuesday, March 9th at 6:00 p.m..



“Nobody hungry, nobody thirsty” is the hope of God in Isaiah. It is also the hope of our One Great Hour of our Sharing and caring offering this year. With the gifts of our hearts, we let love flow, like new well water to a thirsty village; for crops, for cooking, for life! Let our giving be an upwelling of generosity and may the stream of love bring about God's kin-dom. Our gift is prayer in action. Praise be to God!

Please give generously when we take up this offering March 28th or any time this month. Envelopes are available on the table at the rear of the sanctuary for your donation.