



1158 Cleveland Rd.  
Sandusky, Ohio 44870  
firstconguccsandusky.com

FIRST  
CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

JANUARY 2022



People have been asking me about my upcoming three-month sabbatical: when am I going, when will I return, where will I be and what will I be doing while I'm gone. Since it is almost here, I thought I would use this article to explain all that.

My last Sunday to lead worship is January 23<sup>rd</sup>, the day of our Annual Meeting. However I am not officially on sabbatical until the 29<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Bob takes over on the 30<sup>th</sup>. I will return April 24<sup>th</sup>, Holy Humor Sunday. I already have that planned. The theme will be Love, Peace & Holy Humor. You are invited to wear something reminiscent of the hippie days of the 1970's. Don't worry if you don't have anything like that, we will have a peace necklace for you to wear in order to join in the fun.

Between now and the 29<sup>th</sup> I will be busy cleaning my office and organizing the historical material I need for completing the history of our congregation that I will be writing while I'm gone. I wrote about the first 185 years when I was on sabbatical in 2004. Hopefully, it will be bound and ready to distribute by the beginning of the summer.

I also plan to spend a good deal of time just relaxing and recovering from the stress of the last two years. This will include a fair amount of time with my children. In fact, the sabbatical will end with us all being together for several days in California when the grandchildren have spring break. A trip to Disneyland is in order to make up for the family trip to Florida and Disney World for my birthday in 2020 that was cancelled at the last minute due to the COVID shut down.

I know there is some anxiety about me being gone. Some worry I'll retire shortly after my return. I can assure you that my plan is to return refreshed and ready to continue our ministry together with renewed enthusiasm for as long as God intends. Of course, we all know there are no guarantees these days about anything.

I am trusting that while I am gone you will be engaged in spiritual renewal as well. It's a win-win situation for all of us, with the church and our community reaping the benefits of our time apart.

*May the Lord watch between me and thee,  
while we are absent one from the other.*

Shalom,  
Rev. Lenore



It's the time of year that we have to "undecorate" the church! On January 9<sup>th</sup> after the worship service, the Elders are asking for help taking down the Christmas decorations. Please help out if you are able!

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## SUPPER CLUB

Our monthly Supper Club will be on Tuesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>. It will be at the Small City Taphouse in downtown Sandusky (202 Columbus Avenue) at 6:00 p.m. Please sign up on the sanctuary bulletin board if you plan to come so we can make reservations.

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Our Annual Meeting will be held after worship on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. In addition to briefly reviewing the 2021 events and finances, we will elect and install members of The Leadership Team and board members.



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## MOVIE NIGHT



This month's movie will bring quite a laugh if you need one! The featured film for January Movie Night is *Sordid Lives* - a bizarre rom-com that has become an LGBTQ+ cult classic. With a stellar cast including Olivia Newton-John, Leslie Jordan, Kirk Geiger, and others, this movie puts a comedic twist on unconditional love, acceptance and "coming out" in a small-town Texas family. The eccentric cast of characters all come together as they prepare for the funeral of the beloved family matriarch. Don't miss it! Showtime is 6:00 p.m on January 25<sup>th</sup>. Popcorn provided. Please bring your own beverage.

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## Loose Change Sunday

January 30<sup>th</sup> is the fifth Sunday of the month and therefore **Loose Change Sunday**. Please start rounding up all the coins around your house and in your car and bring them to church that day. All the money collected goes into the Parish Relief Fund. This fund enables us to assist members in need.



Marty & Trudy Anderson	01/06
Hope Petersen	01/22
Gary Lickfelt	01/31

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Dear Church Family,

A wonderful Christmas was made even better by your generous gift to each of us. What a blessing to be so loved! Many thanks from your grateful church staff:

*Rev. Lenore, Charles, Jerry, Marc, Robin, and Stephanie*

Also, since our last newsletter, we received a letter of thanks for our donation sent to United Church Homes (Parkvue Community).

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### NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY



We have finally revised and updated the church directory for the first time since 2019! The new directories are available on the back table in the sanctuary, so make sure you pick one up.



**Please  
be  
Praying  
for...**

Dawn Buekley, Carrie Campbell, Ariel Fry, Corvid Griggs, Debbi Keller, Bill MacKenzie, Will Maier, Jack Neese, Denny O'Donnel, Sharlyn, Judyann Scroggy; Finley, Heys. Kowalski, Pugh, Schindler, Sprouse, Thomas and Vroman Families; Homebound members & friends: Ruth Baker, Anne Johnstone, Marv Keller, Elemeda Schwartz, and Christine Vroman.

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### EMERGENCY CANCELLATIONS

If the weather is unfavorable and you aren't sure about leaving the house for worship or any other church event, please check the "iAlert" on News Channel 3 WKYC. We have also registered with local radio stations WCPZ(102.7 FM), and WLKR (96.1 FM) who will be notified of any cancellation involving the church. Obviously, if a level 3 snow emergency has been declared, everything is canceled!





The Sandusky chapter of NAMI is offering a free, 8-session educational program called "Family to Family" for the family, significant others, and friends of people with mental health conditions. This is a designated evidence-based program. Sessions begin on Tuesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Sandusky location - 211 E. Monroe Street. Dates, times, and locations (either at the Sandusky location or on Zoom) vary. See the flyer on the bulletin board outside the sanctuary for a complete list of the sessions and their dates and times. Or for more information and to register, call (419) 515-6930.

### **MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY**

MLK Day will be Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup> this year - a special day to celebrate and honor the life and achievements of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., an influential American civil rights leader. Consider attending one or both of these events:

#### **"Beyond the Dream" with Dr. Hasan Jeffries**

**Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup> from 6-7 p.m. at BGSU Firelands**

In partnership with The NAACP Sandusky Unit, BGSU Firelands welcomes Dr. Jeffries, an associate professor of history at The Ohio State University where he teaches courses on Civil Rights and the Black Power Movement. He also hosts the podcast "Teaching Hard History: American Slavery" and has contributed to many documentary film projects as an on-screen scholar. For more information about this event and to get your free tickets visit: [events.bgsu.edu/event/drjeffries](https://events.bgsu.edu/event/drjeffries)

#### **"If Not Us, Then Who?" with Dr. Eugene T.W. Sanders**

**Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup> beginning at 11:00 a.m. in the Sandusky High School Auditorium**

Sponsored by The Sandusky Club of Black Business & Professional Women, this MLK Day celebration will feature guest speaker, Dr. Sanders, the superintendent and CEO of Sandusky City Schools, as well as community involvement and student participation from the SHS Step Team, Great Lakes Visual and Performing Arts, and others. The purpose of this program is to both celebrate Dr. King's work as well as raise funds for the Women of L.E.G.A.C.Y. scholarship fund. The club was able to grant two scholarships in the amount of \$2,250 last year to students accepted into institutions for post-high school education and/or adults enrolled in continuing education programs. The ability to assist others with these scholarships was made possible by the generous donations of local businesses and community members.



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**“Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal.” -Martin Luther King Jr.**

Do you feel like you could benefit from strengthening personal, professional, and spiritual growth in your own life coming into the new year? You are in luck! On January 8<sup>th</sup>, the Center for Peace Through Understanding and The Center for Cultural Awareness are teaming up to bring a free workshop that will be held in our church called “Where’s Your Peace?” This workshop will be guided by community experts, and is fully expected to be a fun, interactive, and educational event. The “Wheel of Life” tool and the twelve life domains will be explored to help you discover inner peace and find balance in your life. The workshop also aims to help you identify supports as well as community resources to help you accomplish the attainable goals you are setting for the new year!

The workshop begins at 10 a.m. and goes until noon, but those who arrive early at 9:45 a.m. may enjoy a continental breakfast! Registration is not required, but highly encouraged to ensure space and materials. For more information about this event and to register, visit <https://bit.ly/3EUB5pN> or contact Luis Quezada at (567) 215-2455 with any questions. The flyer for this event (pictured) is also located on the bulletin board outside the sanctuary!

**Where's Your Peace?**  
Free Workshop

This workshop aims to help you find inner peace by strengthening personal, professional, and spiritual growth as well as help you identify supports and community resources.

**Kick off the New Year with:**

- Wheel of Life Exercise
- Community Experts
- Attainable Goals
- Tools & Resources
- Peace and Balance

**JOIN US**  
**January 8th, 2022**  
9:45 AM - 12:00 PM  
1158 Cleveland Rd W, Sandusky Plaza  
Sandusky, OH 44870  
First Congregational UCC  
If you are not fully vaccinated, please wear a mask inside

**For more information:**  
<https://bit.ly/3EUB5pN>  
Luis Quezada 567-215-2455

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-Martin Luther King Jr.

Center for Peace through Understanding  
THE CENTER FOR CULTURAL AWARENESS BRIDGES OF PREVENTION

