



To
share
Faith,
Hope
and
Love
with
all.

The Messenger

April 2013

**First Congregational United Church of Christ,
36363 Center Ridge Rd., North Ridgeville, OH 44039
Phone: (440) 327-2921 ~ Fax: (440) 327-3647
Web Site: www.fccalive.org**

Interim Minister
Dave Howell

Director, Christian Ed
Mary Karlovec

Music Director/Organist
Kathleen Bosl

Moderator
Regenia Comerford

Vice-Moderator
June Yost

Chair, Christian Ed
Karen Veliconia

Co-Chairs, Deacons
Keith Schoonover
Diana Goode

Chair, Outreach
Edie Phillips

Chair, Trustees
Roy Dreger

Secretary
Linda Matis

Treasurer
Linda Matis

Sunday Schedule:

10:00 am

Worship Service
Children's Sunday School

Following Worship Service
**Refreshments &
Fellowship**

Pastor's Pen

"Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him." Luke 24:13-16

"When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight." Luke 24:30-31

We all know about Easter morning, when a group of women discover the empty tomb. We also know the story of Easter afternoon — the walk to Emmaus in which two disciples encounter a mysterious stranger who reveals himself to be the risen Christ. On Easter evening—what happens then? Luke's story of Jesus appearing to his disciples in Jerusalem is less well known but is equally important. It revolves around a table instead of a tomb.

A meal is familiar territory for Jesus. He is famous for feeding crowds of 5,000 and 4,000 and notorious for eating with tax collectors and sinners. His hospitality reveals his desire to nourish people both physically and spiritually.

At a table, he eats with a Pharisee and forgives a sinful woman and institutes the Lord's Supper. He later appears on the beach to cook a fish breakfast for his disciples. There he asks Peter to "feed my sheep."

Jesus offers a welcoming table and instructs his followers in the nature of hospitality with the words, "when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind". Jesus welcomes everyone to his table.

His form a radical hospitality forms the heart of the Christian message. He calls us to reach out for the "least and the lost" – a challenge at all times for the faithful. First Congregational's decision to be "open and affirming" has put into words our decision to "be like Jesus." Our choice now is to put into action this "post Easter"

hospitality. May God enrich our decision with affirming action so that we can do what we say, without fear and with love.

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Dave

Christian Education Corner – Mary Karlovec

April is here and hopefully spring will not be far behind as we begin the season of Pentecost. On Easter Sunday we brought back the Alleluias. Thanks to the "Packard gang" for being the "Keepers of the Alleluias" during Lent. Also, a BIG thanks to Sandy Chalkwater and Jenny Anderson for taking over the planning and teaching of the early childhood Sunday School class during Lent. I really appreciated their support.

The Board of Christian Education has begun the planning of the Women's Retreat for this fall. Hopefully we will have a date and place by the first part of May. Our tentative dates would be the first weekend in November. This weekend event will be open to all women of the church as well as their family and friends. I encourage all the women of the church to join us for this fun-filled weekend!

On Saturday, April 20 the Board of Christian Education is sponsoring a **SPAGHETTI DINNER** to benefit Jenny and Bill Anderson in their journey to adopt a child. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. The dinner will begin at 6 pm in Fellowship Hall and a Chinese Auction will follow. Tickets can be purchased from any CE member by April 15. Please consider supporting this worthwhile event by purchasing tickets to the dinner. We are also looking for people who are willing to donate gift cards for the Chinese Auction. If interested in donating a gift card, please see me or Karen Veliconia.

Finally, Bob, Matt and I would like to thank you for your continued support the last two months. Hopefully by the time you read this, Matt will be home and ready to begin the next stage of his rehabilitation. Your continued prayers are appreciated as the journey continues.

Trustees Turn – Roy Dreger

Late last month a company came out to look at the slate on the roof on the west side where the gutter came down. While looking at that repair, several other missing slate pieces near the peak were spotted. This company has done repairs to the roof before and seems to do good work at a fair price. They also provided an estimate for replacing gutters and doing the wood replacement of the fascia boards around the sanctuary roof and the bell tower roof. Their bid was reasonable for all the work involved. It was decided at the last Trustees meeting to accept their bid and also to replace the existing gutters with aluminum. This will look different than the current half round gutter, but to replace the current gutter with a similar gutter would cost approximately \$19.00 a foot. A substantial amount of money is saved by going to the standard "K" style gutter you see on most of today's houses. Also, replacing the galvanized steel gutter with aluminum should provide greater longevity reducing cost in the future.

I was told by the company doing the roof and wood repair and replacing gutters that they are putting us on their list as a priority because of the roof work. I don't know if I mentioned it before but the slate itself does not generally go bad. It is the nails that hold the slate in place that rust away and allow the slate to become loose that is more often the problem. Also, the company that we signed the contract with is not going to need to do the lead abatement (as mentioned in last month's newsletter), as they are going to replace the wood and not try to restore all of the wooden trim. Sanding the old paint was the reason that the lead removal was going to be necessary. Since this company is only going to be replacing wood that has rotted, and not repairing the rest of the woodwork, no sanding will be needed.

Recently we had some problems with ants in the kitchen near the sink. One of the problems is food being left out. An unidentified piece of food was found in the sink and as it was too big to go through the strainer, it sat there. The ants found it, and being hungry ants, decided it would be a great

buffet for them. Hopefully Orkin has solved the immediate problem, but the long term solution is getting everyone that uses the kitchen to make sure it is cleaned up when they are done. If the ants can't find food in our kitchen they will go somewhere else for lunch.

All the repairs being made to your church are made possible by your gracious stewardship. The Trustees are grateful for your continued commitment to your church.

Outreach Committee News- Edie Phillips

Thank you to all who donated to the One Great Hour of sharing campaign this year. If you want more information about OGHS or wish to contribute, the web address is www.ucc.org/oghs. We have collected \$385.00 to date.

Outreach voted to give \$400.00 to Community Care. More and more food is needed every day to keep up with the growing number of families needing assistance. Remember to keep bringing food items to church to donate to Community Care. An extra can of spaghetti sauce or a jar of peanut butter may not seem like much but added to other donations it can make a huge difference to a family.

We still need money for Hospitality Meals. Make checks out to First Congregational Church UCC and specify Hospitality Meal. We try to make the meals tasty as well as nourishing. Our menu for April is Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, roll and desert. Thank you Christian Ed for making the dinner in February and thanks Diana for stepping in for Mary. The spaghetti was very good. We want to let CAROL SCHARMAN know we appreciate her making the dining room always so festive and inviting. People who come to eat are always commenting on how beautiful the tables look.

Thank you to Nancy Franks and Pastor Dave for the Lenten services after church every Sunday during Lent. They have made me more mindful of what Easter means to me. I hope everyone has been able to attend at least one of these special services.

Easter was made a little happier for our Community Care family by the baskets of goodies delivered especially for them through our outreach.

Our church family proves over and over that we live the life Jesus taught us and that is to love one another. We are reminded the only way to Heaven is through the cross because we deeply believe Jesus' death is atonement for our sins; therefore, it is not good works that add to our salvation but good works will add to our rewards when we get to Heaven

Outreach members: Barb Zinsmeister, Nancy Franks, Jean Griffith, Ann Olesen, Peg Hopkins and Edie Phillips

Pastor/Parish Committee: Something New – Available if Needed.

Council thought it beneficial to provide a sounding board between the congregation and the minister by establishing a Pastor/Parish Committee. If and/or when you have a comment to make that would improve relationships between the pastor and our congregation, please jot it down on paper with your name and phone number, slip it into an envelope addressed to the Pastor/Parish Committee and give it to Linda, our secretary, call one of the committee members, or make arrangements to meet with us. We are here to resolve issues at hand and also hear complimentary comment on a job well done. And it's our job to pass these comments along to our pastor. We look forward to serving you.

Bob & Nancy Franks, Pat Kyle, Edie Phillips
(Our phone numbers are in the church directory or can be obtained from the church office.)



Recycle your paper at
First Congregational UCC!
All money received from the Paper Retriever
recycling bin goes into the
Hospitality with a Heart
community outreach meal fund.

NOTEWORTHY

Ladies Book Fellowship Group

On April 15 we will be discussing The Art of Racing in the Rain: A Novel by Garth Stein. This is a heart-wrenching but deeply funny and ultimately uplifting story of family, love, loyalty, and hope—a captivating look at the wonders and absurdities of human life...as only a dog could tell it.

Book club discussions are at the church at 7:00 p.m. All women of the church are welcome to join us.

Thank you, everyone, for prayers and calls of concern for my better half, Bob Franks. It really means a lot.

Nancy



4/1 Krista O'Neill
 4/2 Bob Schmittgen
 4/4 Tim O'Neill
 4/5 Betty Jackson
 4/8 Paula Dudek
 4/14 Dave Poe
 4/15 Catherine Craigs
 Heather Smith
 4/16 John Petroff
 4/19 Kyle Nestelle
 4/23 Brian Zinsmeister
 4/25 Vaughn Dee Reppenning
 4/30 Dolores Pesch
 June Yost

4/3 Ric & Sallie Sasse
 4/15 Andy & Shirley Sunyak
 4/25 Dave & Mary Ireland
 Linda & Bob Matis
 4/28 Jim & Junt Yost

Ushers & Greeters

April 7	Youth Members
April 14	June Yost, Shirley Sunyak, Lynne Petroff, Ric Sasse
April 21	Millie Gilly, Vonnie Packard, Tom Packard, Barb Zinsmeister
April 28	Edie Phillips, Charis Meehan, Bill Meehan, Ed Connolly

Joseph & The Amazing Technicolor

Dreamcoat - submitted by Karen Veliconia

It was red and yellow and green and brown and scarlet and black and ochre and peach and ruby and olive and violet and well, you get the idea. Joseph's coat had many colors! If you'd like to see that amazing coat and hear some wonderful music, then plan on traveling over to the Elyria High School Performing Arts Center to enjoy the Elyria High School Music Department's production of "Joseph & The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat". They will be presenting this show at 7:30 pm on Friday, April 26 & Saturday, April 27 and at 2:00 pm on Sunday, April 28. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for senior citizens and students. For ticket information, visit the Performing Arts Center website: <http://www.elyriaschools.org/performingartscenter/#calendar>.

Our own Andrew Veliconia will be performing in the role of the brother named Gad, along with many of the students who shared their vocal talents with us when the Madrigals sang during our worship service in December. We hope you can join us for this wonderful, colorful, amazing show!

Thank you to everyone who helped to make our annual Swiss Steak Dinner a huge success!! Our profit from this wonderful fundraiser was \$3,730.35! It was a lot of work, but it was also a lot of fun! Special thank you's go out to co-chairs Regenia Comerford and Diana Goode.



March Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month is a time to encourage everyone over the age of 50 to get screened regularly for colorectal cancer.

Colorectal cancer is cancer of the rectum or colon. It's the second leading cause of cancer-related death for both men and women.

People over the age of 50 are at the highest risk for colorectal cancer. Other risk factors include:

- Growths (called polyps) inside the colon
- Family history of colorectal cancer
- Smoking
- Health conditions like Crohn's Disease
- Being African-American

Here's the good news: you can reduce your risk if you get screened for colorectal cancer starting at the age of 50. You can also reduce your risk of colorectal cancer by:

- Getting active
- Eating healthy
- Quitting smoking

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Funded by: • Catholic Health Partners • Mercy • The Community Foundation of Lorain County
• Mercy Foundation of Lorain County • The Nord Family Foundation

April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Jazz 9:30am/6pm BS Pack mtg. 6:30 pm AA 7:30 pm	2 CE 7 pm Jazzercise 6:30 pm AA 8:30 pm	3 Choir 7 pm Jazz 9:30am/6pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	4 Deacons 7:30 pm Jazzercise 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm 4-H 6:30 pm AA 8 pm	5 Jazzercise 9:30 am	6 Jazzercise 9 am AA 7 pm
7 Communion	8 Trustees 7:30 pm Jazz 9:30am/6pm AA 7:30 pm	9 Jazzercise 6:30 pm AA 8:30 pm	10 Choir 7 pm Telestai mtg. 7 pm Jazz 9:30 am/6pm Daisy Troop 6 pm	11 Jazzercise 6:30 pm AA 8 pm	12 Jazzercise 9:30 am	13 Jazzercise 9 am AA 7 pm
14 Outreach 9 am Search Comm. 9 am Birthdays	15 Book Club 7 pm Jazz 9:30am/6pm AA 7:30 pm	16 Newsletter articles due Jazzercise 6:30 pm AA 8:30 pm	17 Choir 7 pm Jazz 9:30am/6pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	18 Council 7 pm Jazzercise 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm 4-H 6:30 pm AA 8 pm	19 Jazzercise 9:30 am	20 Anderson Family Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser 6 pm Jazzercise 9 am AA 7 pm
21 Communion	22 Jazz 9:30am/6pm AA 7:30 pm	23 Jazzercise 6:30 pm AA 8:30 pm	24 Choir 7 pm Jazz 9:30 am/6pm Daisy Troop 6 pm	25 Jazzercise 6:30 pm AA 8 pm	26 Hospitality w/a Heart meal 4-6 prep, 6-7 serve, 7-? clean up Jazzercise 9:30 am	27 Jazzercise 9 am AA 7 pm
28 Search Comm. 9 am	29 Jazz 9:30am/6pm AA 7:30 pm	30 Jazzercise 6:30 pm AA 8:30 pm				