



First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

36363 Center Ridge Road
North Ridgeville, OH 44039
440.327.2921 ~ www.fccalive.org

September 2013

Interim Minister

Dave Howell
pastor@fccalive.org
216-496-8776

Director, Christian Education

Mary Karlovec

Moderator

Regenia Comerford

Vice-Moderator

June Yost

Chair, Christian Education

Karen Veliconia

Co-Chairs, Deacons

Diana Goode
Keith Schoonover

Chair, Outreach

Edie Phillips

Chair, Trustees

Roy Dreger

Treasurer, Secretary

Linda Matis

*To
Share
Faith,
Hope
and
Love
with
all.*

Pastor's Pen – Pastor Dave

**"Oh, the Lord is good to me.
And so I thank the Lord
For giving me the things I need:
The sun and the rain and the apple seed;
The Lord is good to me."**

When I was a kid we sang the above song for our blessing at camp meals. It was always introduced to us as the Johnny Appleseed Song which came to us via a Disney cartoon. It wasn't until several years later that I learned more about the real Johnny Appleseed, otherwise known as John Chapman. Chapman was a devout Christian who believed that one of the greatest things he could do to show his love and commitment to God was to "love his neighbor as his self." And in an age when so many across our country were achingly poor he decided to help some of them become self-sufficient. One of the by-products of apple cider, a healthy and relatively disease free beverage that was available across the country in his day, was apple seeds. The cider presses usually discarded the seeds as refuse. Chapman decided instead that they were a great "free" material to use in his search to find a means to help some of the poor "hard scrapple" farmers in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana.

His business plan and his missionary plan became one and the same. The popular image is of Johnny Appleseed spreading apple seeds randomly, everywhere he went. In fact, he planted nurseries rather than orchards, built fences around them to protect them from livestock, left the nurseries in the care of a neighbor who sold trees on shares, and returned every year or two to tend the nursery. Many of these nurseries were located in the Mohican area of north-central Ohio. This area included the towns of Mansfield, Lucas, Perrysville, and Loudonville - an area where our two conference camps are near.

He would tell stories to children and spread the gospel to the adults, receiving a floor to sleep on for the night, sometimes supper in return. One of those who hosted him is recorded as saying, "We can hear him read now, just as he did that summer day, when we were busy quilting upstairs, and he lay near the door, his voice rising—strong and loud as the roar of wind and waves, then soft and soothing as the balmy airs that quivered the morning-glory leaves about his gray beard."

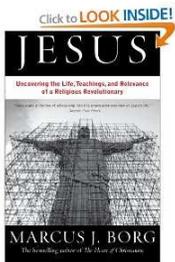
Chapman was quick to preach the Gospel as he traveled, and during his travels he converted many Indians, whom he admired and from whom he



JOHNNY APPLESEED.
from "A History of the Pioneer and Modern Times of Ashland County" by H. S. Knapp (1902)

purchased land for his "nurseries." The Native Americans regarded him as someone who had been touched by the Great Spirit, even hostile tribes left him strictly alone. He once wrote, "I have traveled more than 4,000 miles about this country, and I have never met with one single insolent Native American." He respected them as much as they did him.

Chapman indeed created a model for ministry based on sharing with others through the "word and in deed." As we move into the fall and begin to enjoy the beautiful bounty of apples, remember Johnny Appleseed and his ministry among the early settlers and Native Americans in our state and seize him as a model for our own ministry.



Experiencing Jesus: Getting to Know Jesus Again

You are invited to be part of a ten session re-introduction to Jesus for Adults. We'll be meeting on Tuesday evenings starting Sept 10 and then

meeting on September 17, 24, October 8, 15, 22, 29 and November 12, 19, 26 with a closing celebration on December 10. The group will meet from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. (Beverages and snacks provided).

Based on the book Jesus by Marcus Borg we'll all have a chance to "meet Jesus again."

Frederick Buechner, another late 20th and early 21st Century popular bible scholar describes the book this way, "Writing with a simplicity that never becomes simplistic, Borg manages to convey the essence of Christianity in a way that does justice to those who do not share his views and will greatly enrich the understanding of those who do."

We realize that this is asking our participants to make a major commitment but we can assure you it will be worth your while.

Sign-up today by returning the flier for that purpose you can find in the narthex or the fellowship hall to Mary K., Pastor Dave or by leaving it in the mailbox on his office door in fellowship hall.

We will be furnishing childcare. Come to as many of the sessions as you can.

We will make copies of the hardback edition of "Jesus" available at the much reduced price of \$5.00 to members of the class. Please sign up today.

Christian Education Corner – Mary Karlovec

School bells ringing reminds us that the lazy days of summer are gone and it is time to get back into a routine which includes Sunday School for our 3's through high school and an adult Bible Study on Tuesday evenings! Our younger children will continue to meet each Sunday as they have done all summer. Our youth will resume Sunday School on September 22. I am still looking for 2-3 adults willing to help with the youth on Sunday morning. Our adults will convene on Tuesday evenings for a Bible Study beginning on September 10. This 10-week series will be led by Pastor Dave. Read more information about this exciting program in another article in *The Messenger*.

The second **Women's Retreat** is **November 8-10** at **Punderson State Lodge**. Programming will begin at 7 p.m. on the 8th and conclude with worship on Sunday the 10th. The deadline for reservations is September 15. Our theme this year is Relaxation/Meditation. We will be discovering chair yoga, learning about prayer beads and making meditation boxes. There will be many other activities and of course worship on Sunday morning. Please see the information packet for more details. This retreat is open to **ALL** women high school age and older. You and your guests **do not** have to be a member of the church to attend. Please see Mary Karlovec or Karen Veliconia for questions and/or information.

Finally a huge ***THANK YOU*** to Sandy Chalkwater and Jenny Anderson for helping out with Sunday School this summer. Your support was immensely appreciated!

Outreach Committee News – Edie Phillips

(The Outreach article in last month's Messenger was printed in error. It was an article from 2012. Our apologies for any confusion it may have caused.)

Community Care: Outreach voted to spend \$100 for book bags for back to school for children whose families may not be able to afford them. Also we asked the congregation for donations of socks, shoes and underwear for the kids returning to school. Thanks to those who donated.

Hospitality Meal: We are in need of funds to keep this program working. This month we will be serving chicken, baked potatoes, salad, roll and dessert. Every month we are feeding more families. Please help finance this important outreach program.



A big thank you goes out to Diana Goode for all the kitchen equipment she was able to get for us. Diana has a special knack for getting good deals.

Neighbors in Need: We will be collecting for Neighbors in Need the first part of October. Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Outreach members will be giving Mission Moments this month with more information about NIN.

Family Promise: As an affiliate of a national organization, Family Promise, which has been in existence for 20 years and now has 182 affiliates in 41 states and DC, we have the support and guidance of those that have successfully helped 80% of families secure permanent housing. Host congregations accommodate up to 14 people for a week at a time on a rotating basis. The congregation provides dinner, overnight accommodations, breakfast, and a bag lunch. Our church does not have the facilities to offer this service but St. Julie's in North Ridgeville does offer this service. They need help with this program and have asked if anyone from our church would be interested. This may be the thing for you. If so, please contact me. Volunteers provide the hospitality to run the network. They prepare meals, set up accommodations, stay with guests, read books to the children, and help with friendly support. Everyone has a different reason for becoming involved in this program. It is an opportunity to directly help homeless families and make a difference. Families come to us with all their possessions in

a garbage bag, and after a short stay, leave for a home and a world full of possibility and hope.

Deacons' Desk – Keith Schoonover

It's hard to believe that summer is gone already. Hope everyone had an enjoyable one.

I would like to start by saying sorry I've missed so much church this summer. I took on a big project at home and my friends were only available on the weekends and they are the tradesmen.

On to important things like the Car Show...I think this is one of the funnest fundraisers that we do as a church. And, again, thanks to Nancy Franks for heading it up and all the time she puts into it.

Don't look now but soon you will be seeing some beautiful colored leaves and then comes the fun of cleaning them up in our yards! Can't speak for everyone but it is not a lot of fun since I don't have a tree in my backyard but I get all of my neighbor's leaves.

If anyone has any questions that the Deacons can answer, please contact Diana Goode or myself. We would appreciate any feedback that would help us have things run better on Sundays.

May God bless and keep us all in good spirits.

Trustees' Turn – Roy Dreger

The gutters are finally up! I think the new wood and the new gutters complement the church really well. Now, if we can get the flat roof over Mary Karlovec's office fixed we should be caught up on roof repairs for a while. That estimate has not been received as of the middle of August.

Here are some of the cost estimates we have already received for work needed in the future:

- Parking lot addition \$12,275 plus \$200 for striping (*due to loss of spaces from Center Ridge widening*)
- Replace rear doors \$5,480
- Side windows to enclose new back overhang \$3,760 (*Bob Franks and I met with a contractor to get an estimate for*

building the rear overhang, but the estimate is not in as of this writing.)

- Restoration of stained glass windows in sanctuary \$56,680 (2005 estimate) *(Trustees decided to wait on a new estimate on this project because the cost is so high that it is not practical at this time.)*
- Complete repair of all brickwork \$32,000 (2005 Estimate)
- Repair old boiler \$477, plumbing repairs \$585 *(These should be done at the same time since the system has to be drained for both, and it makes sense to do it once instead of twice. Saves money, too.)*

You can see that there is a lot of work left to be done, but the trustees have placed a priority on the basics, such as roofing and heating. Because of prioritizing you will notice that there is no estimate listed for items such as a picnic shelter or an evening vespers area, even though both could be valuable additions to the ministry of this church. Hopefully these will be able to be addressed in the near future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jack Fitts for his work replacing the cap on the retaining wall for the west side exit from Fellowship Hall. This will help prevent the rest of the wall from deteriorating due to water getting into the base and then freezing. Jack also removed some downed tree branches from the churchyard with the help of Jimmy, our maintenance employee. Thanks again Jack and Jimmy.

All of these repairs and improvements are dependent on the finances of the church, and those are dependent on all of us maintaining our pledges. The trustees thank everyone for supporting their church and enabling it to move forward. *Thank you!*



Heritage Float in Corn Festival Parade – Nancy Franks

Many thanks to all of you who took the time to help with the float in the many different ways only you can do. Please stop in the Sunday

School wing mega wall where pictures of the making, actual parade and float tear-down are displayed. God was watching over us as nothing fell off (including participants), the day was absolutely beautiful, and we all felt satisfied to have shared our 191 year church heritage here in North Ridgeville serving our community for those who lined Center Ridge Road to see.

Ladies Book Club The September, October & November book club gatherings will be at First Congregational UCC N.R. at 7:00 p.m.

September 16th book: Magnolia Creek

One of the most beloved authors in women's fiction today, Jill Marie Landis touches the heart as she illuminates every exhilarating page with natural warmth and tenderness. Now, in her stirring new novel, Landis takes readers to a place where pride can be as unforgiving as the past and finding the courage to love again will be nothing short of a miracle.

October 14th book: Clara and Mr. Tiffany: A Novel by Susan Vreeland

November 11th book: Snow Falling on Cedars: A Novel by David Guterson

Car Show – Nancy Franks

Everyone wear blue shirts on Sunday, September 8. Please also wear a name tag along with your blue shirt. It helps people to identify with our church friendliness. You will find them on a table along with pins. Bring a sack lunch to eat before we head to our stations for the Car Show. Coffee Hour will provide munchies, dessert and beverages to add to your sack lunch or plan to buy a burger or "dawg" at the show (that would make our food grillers happy).

We are looking for great bakery items. Make them, wrap them for sale with a suggested price or no price, as they are donations, sold for donations only. Sue Mays and Dreama Stamper will be setting the bakery table in Fellowship Hall.

Door prizes of all kinds are needed to fill the slots of time during the show for the Car Guys and Motorcycle Enthusiasts. Let's make them feel welcome with great door prizes.

Remember, this is an all-church fundraiser. Many repairs need to be paid for through this and other fundraisers. Our 1822 building is worth keeping in good condition and historically speaking, it's up to us to make this happen. Let's do the best job we know how to do...and have fun at the same time. Thank you!

2013 Past to Present Car Show Fundraiser

No rain date scheduled

Car Show date: Sunday, September 8

1:00-4:00 p.m.

Music: DJ John Vilevac "Oldies & More" "BIG JOHN"

Trophies: Exhibitor's Pick, People's Award, Kid's Choice (10 & under), Motorcycle Favorite

Goodie bags: Yes, for the Car Guys and Motorcycle attendees

Door prizes: Yes, as many as we can get donated

Feature attractions: Motorcycle corral, show cars, Kids' Korner (crafts, face painting, hot wheel races), bakery sale

Pay coming in: \$8.00 car or motorcycle – receive door prize ticket to show you paid

Registration tent: Show door prize ticket to worker; Car Guys keep ½ ticket, ½ ticket for jar; register to get free burger or "dawg" ticket, goodie bag and ballot

Door prizes for Car Guys: announced from 1:15 until all are gone

Vendor's area under trees: \$35.00/space
Pastor will thank everyone for coming and making this a success for all

Kids coloring contest – finish by 3:30: prizes – 1st, 2nd, 3rd, ribbons, coupon

Kids Hot Wheel race at 2:30: prize – one winner only 3:40 pm

Car trophies & kids prizes: announced at 3:40 pm

Chinese raffle winners: announced at 3:50 pm

Money makers:

- donation only bakery table
- \$.50 ea pop, water, coffee, chips
- \$2 ea burgers, "dawgs"
- \$3 combo chips, beverage, burger OR "dawg"
- 50/50 raffle \$1 ea, 6/\$5 or 20/\$10 – winner announced at 3:55 pm

Finale: thank you; pictures taken of car/bike winners with trophy

Why is our show attended? We have friendly members, door prizes, good food and some shaded areas to park vehicles. It's a great \$ cause for the continuation of church programs in the community and the restoration of our historic building.

Parish Nurse Notes – Karen Dreger, Lynne Petroff

As the school year begins, we wish our families good health and encourage healthy choices.

September National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month

One in 3 children in the U.S. is overweight or obese. Childhood obesity puts kids at risk for health problems that were once seen only in adults, like type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease. Is there good news?

Childhood obesity can be prevented.

Communities, health professionals, and families can work together to create opportunities for kids to eat healthier and move more. Make a difference for kids: Spread the word about strategies for preventing childhood obesity and encourage communities, organizations, families, and individuals to get involved.

We can all use this month to raise awareness about the obesity epidemic and show people how they can take action toward a solution – both at home and in the larger community.

Here are just a few ideas:

- Encourage families to make small changes, like keeping fresh fruit within their children's reach or going on a family walk after dinner
- Motivate teachers and administrators to make schools healthier by providing quality nutrition and making sure physical activity is a part of every student's day
- Ask doctors and nurses to be leaders in their communities by supporting programs to prevent childhood obesity

Sponsored by the Health Ministry Program



Health Ministry/Parish Nursing Program
Phone: 440.233.1083 FAX 440.233.1022

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

Ushers & Greeters

September	
1	Youth Members
8	Bob Elliott, Joe Pesch, Barb Zinsmeister, Ed Connolly
15	Millie Gilly, Edie Phillips, Ric Sasse, Joe Pesch
22	Tom & Vonnie Packard, Bill & Charis Meehan
29	Lynne Petroff, Gayle Hannold, Ric Sasse, Joe Pesch

Please note: If you would like to be removed from the Usher List, please contact Becky Williams at (440) 327-1891.



Matt with Stomper Bear

- 9/2 Sandy Gast
- 9/7 Becky Williams
- 9/10 Jody Millar
- 9/14 Betty Noland
- 9/17 Vi Elrod
- Linda Matis
- 9/18 Billie Bier
- 9/21 Kari Dlugosz
- 9/23 Mary Ireland
- 9/24 Holly Chalkwater
- 9/25 Rich Vulcan
- 9/26 Brenda Do
- 9/29 Karen Mytnick

- 9/1 Henry & Vaughn Repenning
- 9/12 Tom & Vonnie Packard
- 9/20 Pete & Karen Veliconia



Strike! thrown by Matt

Crushers Game Recap – Linda Matis

It was a great night for a baseball game! The weather couldn't have been better as Matt threw a beautiful first pitch strike with 450 friends and family watching. Matt told me before the game that his heart was beating really fast because he was so excited. As I stood at the railing to watch his throw, Mary looked up and said Matt was crying because he was so happy. Of course, that made me start to cry as well. It was wonderful to see Matt at the game and the progress he has made in his recovery. It was also wonderful to see so many of our church family come to the game to support the Karlovec family. And those who couldn't make it to the game but still wanted to show their support donated 137 tickets to be given to Community Care clients. Our 50/50 raffle raised \$464.00; Mary's cousin won and donated one-half of his winnings back to the church, upping the amount raised to \$696.00! Based on the number of tickets sold (450), First Congregational UCC will receive \$3 back per ticket or \$1,350.00 for this very special fundraiser to benefit Matt Karlovec and help him WORK HARD & GET BETTER!

(photographs by Nema Saleem)



September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Outreach 9 am Communion	2 Labor Day - OFFICE CLOSED AA Women 7:30 pm	3 CE 7 pm Jazzercise 6:30 pm AA 1 st Step 8:30 pm	4 No choir Jazzercise 9:30 am	5 Deacons 6:30 pm Jazzercise 6:30 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	6 Jazzercise 9:30 am	7 Jazzercise 9 am Married Couples Recovery 7 pm
8 Past to Present Car Show 1-4 pm	9 Trustees 7:30 pm Jazz 9:30am/6pm AA Women 7:30 pm	10 Adult bible study 7-8:30 pm Jazzercise 6:30 pm AA 1 st Step 8:30 pm	11 Choir practice 7 pm Jazzercise 9:30 am Cub Scouts 6:30-8pm	12 Jazzercise 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 6:30-8pm Al-Anon 8 pm	13 Jazzercise 9:30 am	14 Jazzercise 9 am Married Couples Recovery 7 pm
15 Communion Sunday School begins Sept. birthdays celebration	16 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE Book club 7 pm Jazz 9:30am/6pm Daisy Scouts 6-7:30p AA Women 7:30 pm	17 Adult bible study 7-8:30 pm Jazzercise 6:30 pm AA 1 st Step 8:30 pm	18 Choir practice 7 pm Jazzercise 9:30 am	19 Council 7 pm Jazzercise 6:30 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	20 Jazzercise 9:30 am	21 Jazzercise 9 am Married Couples Recovery 7 pm
22	23 Jazz 9:30am/6pm AA Women 7:30 pm	24 Adult bible study 7-8:30 pm Jazzercise 6:30 pm AA 1 st Step 8:30 pm	25 Choir practice 7 pm Jazzercise 9:30 am Cub Scouts 6:30-8pm	26 Jazzercise 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 6:30-8pm Al-Anon 8 pm	27 Hospitality w/a Heart meal 4-6 prep, 6-7 serve, 7-? clean up Jazzercise 9:30 am	28 Jazzercise 9 am Married Couples Recovery 7 pm
29	30 Jazz 9:30am/6pm AA Women 7:30 pm	