



First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

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

October 2013

Interim Minister

Dave Howell

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

WORLD COMMUNION DAY

"World Communion Sunday may come and go without much fanfare, foregoing celebrity hype and lacking attention-grabbing scandal. But in an increasing globalized world, where differences can be divisive, sharing in the elements of the Lord's Supper is the quiet constant that unites believers of Christ — that grace, redemption and healing are afforded through the simple sharing of sacred bread and cup." So says Carol Pavlik in a recent online article shared in the current available news stories at our UCC new site.

Since I was a child I remember celebrating this special Sunday. It gave me a sense of solidarity with the whole church on one special day. Having grown up in a congregation where communion was deemed so special that it was only celebrated a half dozen times a year, celebrating it on one Sunday with churches all around the globe gave it a special, almost mythic sense. I thought about being connected that day with Christians in Africa and Europe, Asia and the Pacific Rim. Suddenly the church's universal or "catholic" identity became real to me.

Wow...what a wonderful feeling it was to picture those worldwide relationships with the church. Since this was pre-worldwide internet, it was one of the few times I could honestly visualize such a connection. Now that I can chat live on line with friends in Africa and Southeast Asia it seems almost unbelievable that I was one day in the year could conjure up such awe.

Won't you join us on Sunday, October 6 as find again those worldwide inter connections. Join us as we break the bread and sip the cup and join with those who follow Christ worldwide in remembering our Lords ministry and service, sharing his grace again as he becomes "alive again in memory."

HALLOWEEN AND UNICEF - *a personal reflection from Pastor Dave*

UNICEF and Halloween have long been associated. A Presbyterian minister, Clyde Allison, and his wife, Mary Emma, started Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF in 1950, in Bridesburg, a neighborhood in Philadelphia Pennsylvania. The original idea was to make Halloween more



meaningful for children by collecting a "treat" for themselves as well as one for children in other countries. The original benefactors were to be children in post-war Europe who were in need of basics like shoes and soap.

By October 31, 1950, the Allison's had decided that UNICEF would be a worthy recipient of this act of giving. On that Halloween Mary Emma and her children, along with friends and congregants from their church, went door to door asking for donations for UNICEF.

The original campaign raised \$17, collected in decorated milk cartons and then sent to children overseas. A few years later, churches and schools adopted the practice and the US Committee for UNICEF (now known as the US Fund for UNICEF) institutionalized what has become a Halloween tradition. To date, Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF has raised a total of almost \$160 million as one of UNICEF's most recognizable campaigns.

Young trick-or-treaters no longer use empty milk cartons but instead carry orange change boxes emblazoned with UNICEF's logo. I was one of those children. We collected money that first "Trick or Treat for UNICEF" with milk bottles not cartons and I can remember the clunk of each penny, nickel and dime we raised that first cold Halloween evening. Rev. Allison was my pastor and Mary Emma his wife was my sixth grade teacher.

Halloween for me will always be connected with UNICEF. I hope as we share in it this year here in North Ridgeville, sharing in plans for a "SAFE HALLOWEEN" and the plans for "TRUNK or TREAT" in our parking lot (see the Christian Education report later) that we will find some time to think about the needs of the children of the world and make a contribution to them through UNICEF.



Martin Luther, the father of the Reformation

Reformation Day is a religious holiday celebrated on October 31 in remembrance of the Reformation, particularly by Lutheran and some Reformed church communities. It is a civic holiday in Slovenia (since the Reformation

contributed to its cultural development profoundly, although Slovenes are mainly Roman Catholics) and in the German states of Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, and Thuringia. It is also a national holiday in Chile since 2008. In the United States churches often transfer the holiday, so that it falls on the Sunday (called Reformation Sunday) on or before October 31, with All Saints' Day moved to the Sunday on or after November 1.

In 1516–17, Johann Tetzel, a Dominican friar and papal commissioner for indulgences, was sent to Germany by the Roman Catholic Church to raise money to rebuild St Peter's Basilica in Rome. On October 31, 1517 Martin Luther wrote to Albrecht, Archbishop of Mainz and Magdeburg, protesting against the sale of indulgences. He enclosed in his letter a copy of his "Disputation of Martin Luther on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences," which came to be known as *The 95 Theses*. Hans Hillerbrand writes that Luther had no intention of confronting the church, but saw his disputation as a scholarly objection to church practices, and the tone of the writing is accordingly "searching, rather than doctrinaire." Hillerbrand writes that there is nevertheless an undercurrent of challenge in several of the theses, particularly in Thesis 86, which asks, "Why does the pope, whose wealth today is greater than the wealth of the richest Crassus, build the basilica of St. Peter with the money of poor believers rather than with his own money?"

Luther objected to a saying attributed to Johann Tetzel that "As soon as the coin in the coffer rings, the soul from purgatory [also attested as 'into heaven'] springs." He insisted that, since forgiveness was God's alone to grant, those who claimed that indulgences absolved buyers from all punishments and granted them salvation were in error. Christians, he said, must not slacken in following Christ on account of such false assurances.

According to Philipp Melanchthon, writing in 1546, Luther "wrote theses on indulgences and posted them on the church of All Saints on 31 October 1517", an event now seen as sparking the Protestant Reformation. (Wikipedia)

Here at First Congregational UCC will be celebrating Reformation Sunday on October 27. Come and join us as we reconnect to our historic roots within the family of Reformed Churches that day.

Christian Education Corner – Mary Karlovec

Recently I read a blog written by a colleague of mine about the importance of adults modeling their faith in action. She writes about her frustration that it is so difficult to find adults willing to work with the youth and teach Sunday School and no matter what she does to encourage adult participation, it falls on deaf ears. Her question to the congregation of her church was, If we expect our children/youth to continue to be active participants of the church, why do we not always model those expectations? I have been thinking about that a lot recently as it has become so hard to find adults willing to teach Sunday School and serve on boards/committees at the church. Sitting in the pews on Sunday morning is only the beginning of what we should be modeling for our children/youth. As we enter October, I am still in need of Sunday School teachers for all areas, but especially our youth. With the coming of a new year, committees will be looking for new members. Giving of your time is equally as important as the giving of your money to keep programming alive and well at First Congregational. Please step forward and show by example what we want our children to see and learn. Volunteering to teach once a month is an easy way to do this!

The Second Women's Retreat is fast approaching. We still have a few openings if you are interested in joining us the weekend of November 8-10 at Punderson State Lodge. It will begin at 7 p.m. Friday night and conclude by noon on Sunday. Our theme is Relaxation and Meditation. If you are interested, please see Mary Karlovec or Karen Veliconia ASAP. It will be a fun and relaxing weekend!

On October 15-17 I will be attending the Great Lakes Association of United Church Educators (GLAUCE) annual retreat in Indiana. I am really excited to be going and networking with Christian Educators from the Great Lakes

Region. Thank you to the Board of Christian Education for giving me the opportunity to go!

Christian Education will be sponsoring SAFE HALLOWEEN/TRUNK OR TREAT on

Sunday, October 27 from 6-7 p.m. There will be games, a craft, donuts/drink and of course the fun time when we TRUNK OR TREAT. We are in need of people willing to park their cars in our parking lot and open their trunks filled with candy to pass out to the children. Costumes are optional but join the fun and dress up! We will be inviting the families from the Friday night dinners and everyone in the congregation is encouraged to bring family and neighborhood friends. A sign up for car participants will be hanging on the board in Fellowship Hall.



THANK YOU! Words cannot express our thanks and appreciation for all that was done to raise funds for Matt at the Crushers game! It was a night he will never forget! (He is still wondering why he did not get to see any of the game!) Special thanks to the Deacons and Linda Matis for all of their hard work. And a VERY special thanks to the anonymous person who donated the first 100 tickets to insure that Matt got to throw out the first pitch. Matt is ALWAYS telling everyone, "I LOVE MY CHURCH FAMILY! THEY MEAN A LOT!"

Bob, Mary and Matt Karlovec

Outreach Committee News – Edie Phillips

Hospitality with a Heart: The Hospitality Meal menu for October is rotini with meat sauce, garlic bread, salad, fruited jello and dessert. Your help is always appreciated and we always need help with clean up and put away tables and chairs. A big thank you to all who give money because it costs around \$200 a month to feed about 100



people. We feel this is a great outreach program for our community.

Community Care: Our Community Care family consists of a mom and dad and three boys. Outreach gives our special family birthday, Christmas and Easter gifts. This month we gave the mom a gift card and toiletries. Everyone needs to feel special on their birthday.

Donations: We voted to give \$100 to Doctors Without Borders. Every day, Doctors Without Borders' 27,000 skilled staff of physicians, nurses, logisticians, and others deliver lifesaving medical care to people living in some of the world's most remote, impoverished, or dangerous regions. Our support makes their work possible and is a powerful message that the world cares.

Thank you for your contributions to Neighbors in Need. The money will be used to support works of justice and compassion in the United States and abroad.

This month we will be collecting food items for Community Care for Thanksgiving. Food items needed are: cranberry sauce, stuffing mix, gravy mix, instant mashed potatoes, and canned vegetables. More information will be in the bulletins.



Deacons' Desk – Kari Dlugosz

Happy Fall everyone!! For my first Deacon's Desk article, I thought that I'd share something near and dear to my family's heart - the passing of the North Ridgeville School Levy. It came to Chris's and my attention last year that the schools in the district were very overcrowded and severely deteriorated. As a first grader Arden had 31 students in her class, and has 27 this year as a second grader. Unfortunately this is not an ideal learning environment. The buildings in the district are also falling apart. The Middle School, for example, floods several times a year. This is not a safe environment for the children of our

community. Before you make your final decision, I ask that you visit the Middle School and Wilcox Elementary. These are the 2 schools that will be replaced. The need is real and can easily be seen.

I know the price tag on the new school may seem high but I ask you to think about what our city, our community, and our children deserve. If anyone has any questions about the levy, state of the schools, etc., please do not hesitate to ask Chris or I about it. We would love to talk about your questions or concerns. I implore the citizens of North Ridgeville to hit the voter booths this fall and back our children, our teachers, our schools, and our community.

Trustees' Turn – Roy Dreger

It is time for our stewardship campaign. You will be receiving a letter from the Trustees that explains our current theme of "*Surprising Gifts*". There will also be weekly messages from the Trustees asking for you to prayerfully make decisions about your 2014 pledges.

Relative to this are the recent quotes the Trustees received for the flat roof and the overhang over the rear doors leading into Fellowship Hall. The roof was about \$4,600 for replacement and the overhang was about \$8,250. (The overhang would become more of an enclosure, acting as a windbreak as well as protection from rain.)

There were repairs made on the organ last month. The technician said that converting the system to solid state circuit boards would make it more reliable. This would cost somewhere between \$6,000 and \$10,000. When he showed me how the organ is currently being switched to respond to the different stops, I understood why the current problems repeat themselves. There are "fingerboards" that engage certain pipes (or parts of pipes in some cases) that are wooden with metal contacts on them. The metal contacts need periodic bending to ensure that they are touching the proper relays. By the way, did you know that the organ was "handmade" by a gentleman in Oberlin in the 1950's? According to the technician, he used parts from other salvaged organs for at least some of the component

parts, meaning that some parts of the organ date back even further than the 1950's!

The Trustees have hired Stephanie Matis as our new cleaning custodian. Stephanie is the daughter of our secretary, Linda Matis, who was also our cleaning custodian for a number of years so I am sure she is well acquainted with the work that needs to be done. Welcome Stephanie!

Once again, as we enter this time of stewardship the Trustees thank you for supporting your church in the past, and appreciate your consideration of your pledge for the future. *Thank You!*

Car Show Recap – Nancy Franks

The car show is over and what a fine job everyone did! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! The Past to Present Car Show was a great success because you all pulled together and made it happen. God was watching over us! The weather held and became better and better as the day went on. The bakery table set up by Sue Mays and Dreama Stamper was full of delicious homemade goodies, including homemade bread from Betty Noland. The grilling station put out some great burgers and dawgs, headed up by Becky Williams and Keith Schoonover, while food tickets were being sold by Karen Veliconia, Marge Baker and Mary Smith. The Hot Wheels race was a great hit with Rosemary Berg in charge, as was the car coloring contest and other events run by Vonnie and Tom Packard, including face art in the kid's corner with Pastor Dave and Cathleen Trovato. Door prizes were being announced by Mary Karlovec and Jack Fitts along with the events of the day, while great music and comment by Big John Vilevac played in the background. Registration took place smoothly through the efforts of Shirley Sunyak's crew, Sandy Chalkwater and Cathy Cornman. The entrance guys – Joe Pesch and Bob Olesen – and the parking team – John Chapman, Gayle Hannold, Joe's son and Andrew – did a super job getting everyone into the show safely (no fender benders). The tour guides – Bob Schmittgen and Vi Elrod – had some curious attendees. The silent auction, run by Edie Phillips and Dave

Ireland, and the 50/50 drawing and Sorrento's gift card raffle, run by Diana Goode, Lynne Petroff, Brenda Do and Millie Gilly, brought in some extra cash. Smiling faces at the door were Bob Elliott and Pat Kyle passing out church flyers and giving directions to visitors. Ed Connolly and Mary Ireland manned the beverages and chips inside. Krista O'Neill, Megan O'Neill, Ann Olesen and Barb Zinsmeister helped at the grilling station. Linda Matis and Regenia Comerford took care of the money. Jane and Alex Woravka were my right and left hand for the show planning. If I missed anyone, believe me—it was not intentional! Thanks to all of you for making this event what it was... ***a collaborative effort shared by church family members working together for our church and having fun doing it.*** Thanks also to Liston's Funeral Home for letting us use their parking lot for patrons, and to Northview Animal Clinic for the use of their front lawn for church member parking. To date, the fundraiser profit is \$1,718.39.

Dear Church Family,
Bob and I wish to thank you for the many cards and prayers of support and phone calls of concern regarding Bob's unfortunate accident resulting in a broken leg and shattered elbow. Rehab is taking place at Life Care Center at 1212 Abbe Road in Elyria. Bob will be there for quite a while. Your prayers for healing mean a great deal to us both. Thank you again...and thank you, Pastor Dave, for presence and prayers at a very difficult time. Nancy Franks

Pastor Parish Committee

The Pastor Parish Committee mailbox is a special communication area where the congregation can submit a written communique for the pastor or committee to review and hopefully resolve for all parties involved. The mailbox is located in Fellowship Hall by the back

exit doorway. If you have any questions, please contact any of the following Pastor Parish Committee members: Nancy Franks, Edie Phillips, Pat Kyle or Bob Franks. Thank you.

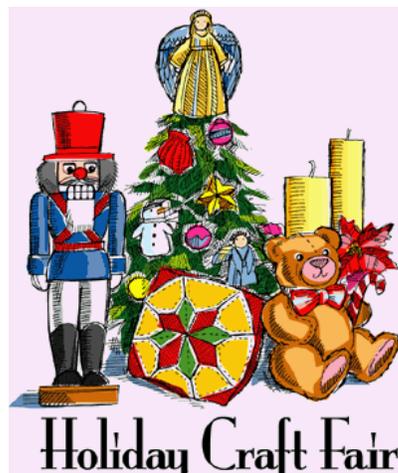
Ladies Book Club: The October & November book club gatherings will be at First Congregational UCC at 7:00 p.m. The October 14th book is Clara and Mr. Tiffany: A Novel by Susan Vreeland; and the November 11th book is Snow Falling on Cedars: A Novel by David Guterson.

Ushers & Greeters

October	
6	Bob Elliott, Andrew Veliconia, Bob Schmittgen, Millie Gilly
13	Barb Zinsmeister, Shirley Sunyak, Joe Pesch, Ric Sasse
20	Vonnie Packard, Tom Packard, June Yost
27	Charis Meehan, Bill Meehan, Ed Connolly
November	
3	Bob Elliott, Shirley Sunyak, Edie Phillips
10	Krista O'Neill, Megan O'Neill, Lynne Petroff, Joe Pesch
17	Charis Meehan, Bill Meehan, Ric Sasse, Millie Gilly
24	Barb Zinsmeister, Bob Schmittgen, Tom Packard, Vonnie Packard

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

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**Saturday,  
December 7  
9 am – 4 pm**

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- 10/1 Emily Williams
- 10/6 Ronda Van Den Bossche
- 10/8 Pat Kyle
- 10/11 Jennie Vulcan
- 10/19 Annie Do
- 10/20 Dreama Stamper
- 10/22 Alex Woravka
- 10/26 Matt Karlovac
- 10/27 Stephanie Malinich
- 10/28 Norma Curren



- 10/17 Gary & Vicki Stamper
- 10/18 Mike & Joan Bier
- 10/18 Paul & Liz Wolanski
- 10/20 Gary & Gayle Hannold
- 10/27 Bob & Dreama Stamper

Dear Friend,

You have been important to the life of First Congregational UCC of North Ridgeville! We'd like to take this opportunity to invite you to our Homecoming Celebration. On Sunday, October 13 we have a special Sunday morning and early afternoon planned to celebrate the work, ministry, and history of First Congregational Church. During our Worship we will be acknowledging our homebound and others so come and enjoy this wonderful day. Worship and church school will begin at 10 a.m. and will include special music. We'll be having a potluck for lunch including our monthly celebration of birthdays. We've divided the types of food to ask each person coming to contribute toward our meal according to the following list:

- Last name begins with:
- A—F Desserts
- G—P Salads/Side Dishes
- R—Z Main Dishes

We would be grateful if you would let us know that you are planning to attend. Please RSVP by October 11 via email (secretary@fccalive.org) or by calling (440) 327-2921. Even if you don't call in – come anyway. We can't wait to see you!

Blessings,
Pastor Dave and the Deacons



to all who covered the office for me while I was serving grand jury duty on Wednesdays in July, August & September. It was definitely an eye-opening experience.

Linda Matis,
Church Secretary

October 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 CE 7 pm Trustees 7:30 pm Jazzercise 6:30 pm AA 1 st Step 8:30 pm	2 Choir 7:30 pm Jazzercise 9:30 am	3 Deacons 6:30 pm Wedding rehearsal 6pm Jazzercise 6:30 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	4 Jazzercise 9:30 am	5 Jazzercise 9 am Lucas/Miller wedding 3 pm Married Couples Recovery 7 pm
6 Outreach 9 am World Communion 	7 Jazz 9:30am/6pm Daisy Scouts 6-7:30pm Cub Scouts Committee Mtg. 6:30-8 pm AA Women 7:30 pm	8 Adult bible study 7-8:30 pm Jazzercise 6:30 pm AA 1 st Step 8:30 pm	9 Choir 7:30 pm Jazzercise 9:30 am Cub Scouts 6:30-8pm	10 Jazzercise 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 6:30-8pm Al-Anon 8 pm	11 Jazzercise 9:30 am	12 Jazzercise 9 am Married Couples Recovery 7 pm
13 Church Homecoming Sunday October birthdays celebration	14 Women's Book Club 7 pm Jazz 9:30a/6p AA Women 7:30 p	15 Adult bible study 7-8:30 pm Jazzercise 6:30 pm AA 1 st Step 8:30 pm	16 Newsletter articles due Jazzercise 9:30 am	17 Council 7 pm Jazzercise 6:30 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	18 Jazzercise 9:30 am	19 Jazzercise 9 am Married Couples Recovery 7 pm
20 Communion	21 Jazz 9:30am/6pm Daisy Scouts 6-7:30p AA Women 7:30 pm	22 Adult bible study 7-8:30 pm Jazzercise 6:30 pm AA 1 st Step 8:30 pm	23 Choir 7:30 pm Jazzercise 9:30 am Cub Scouts 6:30-8pm	24 Jazzercise 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 6:30-8 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	25 Hospitality w/a Heart meal 4-6 prep, 6-7 serve, 7-? clean up Jazzercise 9:30 am	26 Jazzercise 9 am Married Couples Recovery 7 pm
27 Safe Halloween 6-7 pm 	28 Jazz 9:30a/6p AA Women 7:30 p	29 Adult bible study 7-8:30 pm Jazzercise 6:30 pm AA 1 st Step 8:30 pm	30 Choir 7:30 pm Jazzercise 9:30 am	31 Jazzercise 6:30 pm Al-Anon 8 pm		