

The Messenger

The monthly newsletter of First Congregational Church UCC of North Ridgeville

June 2018

Pastor

Rev. Arik Borstad

Director, Christian Education

Mary Karlovec

Music Director

Lynne Lipperman

Moderator

Roy Dreger

Vice-Moderator

Nancy Franks

Chair, Christian Education

Kelsey Veliconia

Co-Chairs, Deacons

Diana Goode

Lynne Petroff

Chair, Outreach

Nancy Franks

Chair, Trustees

Pete Veliconia

Treasurer, Secretary

Linda Matis

From the Pastor's Pen

June has arrived, and with it we officially enter into the summer months here at First Congregational. It is a time of relaxation, reflection, and change as we introduce some new things in the life of our faith family.

Starting this month until the fall when we return to our regular Sunday school program, we will be shifting to our summer worship schedule. **Worship services will be held at 10 am on Sunday mornings with a fellowship hour following the conclusion of the service.** This summer worship aims to combine the best elements of both the coffee shop service and the traditional service that we hold during the year. If there are some faces you haven't seen in a while, this is a great opportunity to join in fellowship with one another.

Additionally, we have recently launched our new website at www.fccalive.org! Rebuilt from the ground up, the new website aims to focus on our strengths as a congregation and to reflect the welcoming nature our church is famous for! If you haven't had a chance to check out the new website and all of its new features, make sure to see it for yourself and pass it along to those who are interested in who we are and what we are all about!

Finally, we will be doing VBS in a new way this year. Starting later this month, we will be having VBS throughout the summer with a special focus on what is happening in our local community. In our first ever "DIY VBS," you can attend one or all of our vacation bible school events to learn where God is at work outside of our sanctuary walls. As always VBS is an intergenerational program, so we hope to see everyone sign up!

As we move forward into the summer months, let us give thanks for the fellowship and love that we all share. Summer is the perfect time to show those around us how much we love and appreciate them. So let's enjoy summer to the absolute fullest as we celebrate the power of love!

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Arik



**Stay Connected at
Church this Summer**

Moderator's Moment – Roy Dreger

Ever hear someone say something along the lines of "Like the Good Book says, God helps those who help themselves"? I have, and I have to admit that there is something about that phrase that does sound biblical. However, the truth is that it is nowhere to be found in the scriptures. This saying first showed up in Aesop's fables several centuries BCE in a slightly different form (the Greeks had many gods).

Having said that, there is a certain validity to this saying. We can't just sit back and let things happen and expect a good outcome; we have to do some work to see that it ends (mostly) the way we want it to. This applies to our church life also. As a church family we need to be willing to help out so that the larger work of the church can be accomplished. I think we are fortunate to have a congregation where so many are willing to do what they can. Writing this in close proximity to the spring clean-up and the rummage sale just proves my point. I once again extend thanks to everyone for doing what they can. This would seem an appropriate place to extend a "thank you" to the choir for their contributions to our worship and I look forward to their return in the fall.

To everyone, I would like to wish you and yours a safe and happy summer! Blessings to all!

Christian Education Corner – Mary Karlovec

Summer is finally here and for most of our families it is a huge change in routines. I hope everyone has a summer filled with joy and happiness but I encourage everyone to take time each day for prayer and journaling. (If you need a journal, see me!) What a great time to start a routine to carry through the new school year in the fall!



Our Ladies Tea was a wonderful event. There was much positive feedback and I am sure it will become an annual event! Special thanks to the CE Board for their help at the event. Thank you to Carol Scharmann for the beautiful spring table decorations and Karen Veliconia for the mini cupcakes! An enormous

THANK YOU to our congregation for your support of Genesis House!! We collected over 80 pairs of pajamas, 20 pairs of tennis shoes as well as monetary donations! The representative from Genesis House was truly humbled by your support.

Our Vacation Bible School this year will be **four Sundays** during the summer. Our theme is **DIY VBS!** We will be doing activities that focus on our community, our health, and taking time to relax! First up is "Our Community" on June 24. It will begin with a BYOL (Bring Your Own Lunch) immediately after the 10:00 worship. We will conclude by 3:00. This is an **INTERGENERATIONAL** event and we hope to see many of you there. More information will be in upcoming Sunday bulletins! Keep July 8, July 22 and August 19 open as those are the other confirmed VBS dates.

Summer Sunday School starts June 10 and I am in need of teachers and aides for the Pre-K through 2nd grade classroom. Those 3 years and younger will be in the child care room and 3rd grade and above will be in worship the entire time. The sign-up sheet is outside my office and lesson plans/supplies will be available for you the week before!



Outreach Committee News – Nancy Franks

Welcome Spring and warmer weather! Dare we put our winter items away??

The Mother's Day special gifts table was well received as many of you shared a gift or two from your kids from the past. It was great walking down memory lane with you.

As we read this the rummage sale is over and so is the fundraiser at Applebee's in Avon. The total made on this project will be made available soon. Thank you very much for participating, and especially a big thanks goes out to those who helped with the rummage sale! You know who you are and your help was extraordinary in every way!!

The Genesis House collection chest needs to be filled with personal items for women and children for short term accommodations. This program in Lorain County assists families in

tragic circumstances due to marital dysfunction, etc. Please be generous. The chest and needs list are in the Sunday school wing.



Please do your part in making Congress aware of the need to continue to fund programs to stop hunger and poverty here in the U.S. and elsewhere as they are preparing to cut/retain 2019 key budget items that invest in our future. Find the suggested letter content and addresses for representatives and senators you might contact to make a difference in Washington on this subject later in this newsletter. We support Bread for the World in their quest to end hunger. Will you speak up for those who cannot because they are too weak from lack of food?

“Jesus said to him, ‘If you are can!—All things are possible for him who believes.’” Mark 9:23

Our Outreach Committee is working with The Altar and Rosary Society of St. Vincent de Paul Church which sends “**Boxes from Home**” to deployed soldiers. Do you have a loved one or friend you would like to send a box to? Please call Dorothy at 984-2192 with the soldier’s name, rank, branch of service, and the overseas mailing address. Thank you, and Dorothy will be waiting for your call. (431 **boxes from home** have been sent.)

Deacons’ Desk – Bob Olesen

Were You a “Free Range Kid”?

The changes in our lifestyles are sometimes difficult to accept. When I was a kid growing up in Chicago we would hit the streets early in the morning to begin our daily adventures with brief stops at home to refuel with lunch and dinner. In between we would run the neighborhood, play games, climb billboards or enjoy activities at Holstein Park several blocks away. On occasion, we would seek our parents’ approval (and usually got it) for more distant ventures to such places as the Lincoln Park Zoo or North Avenue Beach. Back then you might have

referred to us as “free range kids” but we operated pretty much under an honor system which my dad aptly described as “don’t do anything stupid”.

Young parents today are faced with a constant barrage of evil headlines, school shootings, abductions and the murders of innocents by crazed fanatics. It is little wonder that they feel the importance of closely monitoring their children’s activities. What has changed to bring all this about?

As I look back over the years, I see one major change in the way we view the world...it is called communication. When I was young, television was in its infancy, worldwide networks did not exist. Cell phones and home computers were only dreams of the future. Certainly there was violence in our country and the world, but we were sheltered from it. Life was good; we were truly living the American dream.

Watch your news tonight. Measure how much of it pertains to violence, murders, fires, abductions and robberies. Check what your local theaters are playing. How much is related to blood and guts shoot-'em-ups? What happened to “Lassie Come Home”? Check your child’s downloads on their devices and you may be surprised by what you find. Recently we checked to see what video games were downloaded on our iPad by a grandson. Sitting among the downloads was a video about a good guy street assassin who was firing a scoped rifle from tall buildings and blowing the bad guys’ brains out. This one went to “Delete City”.

You may not agree with me on all these matters but I do feel that to a great extent we have brought this gloom and doom on ourselves. We have put the stamp of approval on many evil aspects in our society and must now live with it. My hope is that future generations will again begin to dwell on what is good in life rather than continually fear the unknown.

Trustees’ Turn – Pete Veliconia

We have some news that we wish to share - we have a new custodian, Bruce Griswold. Bruce has already done some great things with his enthusiasm and drive. He brings a common sense mentality that will serve him

well in his new position. If you notice an improvement in the floors of Fellowship Hall, thank Bruce.

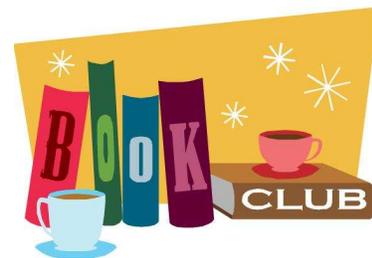
We also have installed a new television in Fellowship Hall. It will be used often, such as on Sunday mornings, for different Church functions and for hall rentals. We will be using this for services, for announcements during coffee hour, to show movies and videos for Vacation Bible School and can be used for memorial tributes during hall rentals. Forgive us while we work out the kinks.

We continue to do a lot of work behind the scenes. We are working on bat remediation, to ensure that the roof doesn't leak and to ensure the parking lot investment is safe and secure for many years to come. Thank you for your patience while these projects happen. Not every project is a splashy exciting one; sometimes the best investments are ones that you cannot see.

Parish Nurse's Notes – Karen Dreger

This is My Father's World

I look around my backyard and see a marvelous combination of God's creation. I see flowers and birds, chipmunks and squirrels. Plants that looked dead are now green and growing; shrubs that looked like dead sticks have foliage and some are even blooming! A bird is patiently sitting on a nest in our fir tree and soon there will be new life. The lilacs are in bloom and smell wonderful! The woodpeckers, wrens, cardinals, orioles, blue jays, sparrows, doves and more are singing their own song. The trees are leafing out rapidly, giving us more shade each day. I sit in our sun room warmed by the sun enjoying all that unfolds in our mini park of a yard. Two orioles splash in the bird bath and a hummingbird comes to its feeder. I thank God for the wonder of sight, hearing, smell and touch that allow us to enjoy his world. I love sharing it with our children and grandchildren. I hope in all the busyness (of which we have a lot) of summertime activities, you can take a moment or more to appreciate "Our Father's World".



Women's Book Club: All book club gatherings are at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

June 18: It is Well by James Shipman

July 16: The Book of Joy by Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu and Douglas Carlton Abrams on Krista's patio at 6:30 p.m. (34035 Luanne Drive). Bring snack to share and BYOB.

Ushers & Greeters

June	
3	Vi Elrod, Vonnie Packard, Bob Franks
10	Regenia Comerford, Mary Ireland, Nancy Long
17	Millie Gilly, Ric Sasse, Edie Phillips
24	Linda Matis, Lynne Petroff, Nancy Findlay
July	
1	Tim & Tess Anderson, Nancy Long

Usher's responsibilities are also to collect attendance sheets and Communion cups after the service.

Acolytes

June	
3	Dahlia Wolanski
10	Abby Anderson
17	Beth Dorman
24	Arden Dlugosz
July	
1	Will Schupbach

If a child is unable to serve as acolyte on their scheduled Sunday, please contact the church office.

Nursery

June	
3	Shirley Sunyak
10	Linda Matis
17	Renee Dorman
24	Ann Olesen
July	
1	Shirley Sunyak

- 6/3 Madeleine Packard
- 6/5 Lynne Petroff
- 6/5 Stephanie Matis
- 6/9 Millie Gilly
- 6/15 Liz Wolanski
- 6/16 Barb Zinsmeister
- 6/17 Ben Dornan
- 6/19 Carol Scharmman
- 6/21 Beth Malinich
- 6/29 Charlotte Dornan
- 6/29 Jillian Smoker



- 6/2 Dale & Becky Williams
- 6/20 Beth & Tim Malinich
- 6/21 John & Lynne Petroff
- 6/23 Fred & Carol Scharmman
- 6/23 Greg & Paula Dudek
- 6/24 Rich & Jennie Vulcan
- 6/26 Evan & Kate Harrold
- 6/27 Roy & Karen Dreger

Want to improve your health, increase flexibility, reduce stress, and rejuvenate your mind, body and spirit?



Come to Yoga!

When: Saturdays 11am - 12 pm (starting June 9)
Where: North Ridgeville UCC Fellowship Hall

Registered Yoga Instructor, Allison Borstad, will be offering a relaxing, restorative yoga class open and accessible to all ages, body types, fitness abilities and levels of experience.

Please bring a yoga/fitness mat and wear clothes you can move and stretch in.

There is a suggested donation of \$5.00 per class.

Feel free to call or email Allison at 440-222-7810 or Allison.borstad@gmail.com with questions.

*Please be aware this class involves some challenging stretching poses. Allison is able to provide modifications and alternative poses to help most students challenge themselves in a way that feels comfortable and safe. However, if you have any conditions that cause severe dizziness or significantly limit your mobility, this class may not be for you. Please discuss yoga practice with your doctor, and/or call Allison to see if this class is right for you.

WE ARE CALLED
#ForSuchATime
 DOING OUR PART TO END HUNGER

You can provide hope and opportunity for people living with hunger. You can help persuade Congress to invest in programs that help overcome hunger and poverty. Handwritten letters are still the most effective way to make your voice heard in Washington, D.C. And your letter will be amplified by the tens of thousands of letters written by others as part of Bread for the World's 2018 Offering of Letters.

Raise Your Voice
2018 Make a Difference in Washington

U.S. Capitol switchboard: 202-224-3121

Senator Sherrod Brown
 U.S. Senate
 Washington, D.C. 20510

Rep. Bob Gibbs
 U.S. House of Representatives
 Washington, D.C. 20515

White House Comment Line: 202-456-1111
 The White House
 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20500

SAMPLE LETTER

[Date]
 Dear Senator _____ or Representative _____,

As Congress works on the fiscal year 2019 budget and spending bills, I ask you to invest in and protect key programs that will reduce hunger and poverty.

Our country and the world have made progress against hunger and poverty in recent decades. I want you to continue to invest in programs like SNAP and tax credits for low-income workers. Continued funding for programs that reduce hunger and poverty around the world are also important to me.

My faith calls me to urge you to make public investments that will move us toward the end of hunger.

Sincerely,
 [your name]
 [your address, city, state, ZIP]

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
					Pastor Arik on vacation 5/28-6/3	
3 Communion Outreach 9 am Worship service 10 am Coffee hour 11 am	4 AA Women 7 pm	5 CE 7 pm AA 1 st Step 8:30 pm	6	7 AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	8	9 Men's Night Out at Lake Erie Crushers game Couples Recovery 7 pm
10 Worship service 10 am Summer Sunday school begins Coffee hour 11 am June birthdays' celebration Hall rented Noon-4 pm	11 AA Women 7 pm	12 Trustees 7 pm AA 1 st Step 8:30 pm	13 4-H 7 pm	14 AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	15	16 Newsletter articles due Couples Recovery 7 pm
17 Father's Day  Communion Worship service 10 am Coffee hour 11 am	18 Women's Book Club 7 pm AA Women 7 pm	19 AA 1 st Step 8:30 pm	20	21 Council 7 pm AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	22 LCAS 6:30 pm	23 Couples Recovery 7 pm
24 Worship service 10 am Coffee hour 11 am Deacons 11 am VBS noon-3 pm	25 AA Women 7 pm	26 AA 1 st Step 8:30 pm	27 4-H 7 pm	28 AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	29 Hospitality w/a Heart	30 Hall rented 11am-3pm Couples Recovery 7 pm