

# The Messenger

The monthly newsletter of First Congregational Church UCC of North Ridgeville

**July 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**

Well, July is here! It is a time of celebration and change, and it is a time when we enjoy those precious moments we get to share with friends and loved ones as we celebrate this warm summer weather. It is also a time when we find ourselves past the middle of the year, and the journey toward the second half of 2018 begins in earnest.

That being said, there are a lot of things that are happening around us this month! First and foremost, on July 1 we will be holding a service of lamentation. Historically the church has been very good when it comes to the warm-fuzzies and keeping us feeling good, but there needs to be space where we feel free to acknowledge our grief and our anger as well. On July 1, we will join together as a church to lift up the hardships we have in life, acknowledging that life isn't always easy.

Then on July 14 you are all invited to join my family as we celebrate Sage's first birthday together! We couldn't have made it without everyone's love and support, so we want to open our home to you as a way of saying thank you! Starting at 4 pm we will have an open house where everyone is invited and welcome to attend. Since Sage's favorite thing in the world is being outside and looking at all the plants and flowers in our neighborhood, the theme is going to be a "garden party" and we hope to see you there!

Then on the following day, July 15, you are invited to bring your little critters with you as we have our blessing of the animals service. Weather permitting, we will hold the event outside and give thanks for the animals that are part of our family. In the event of bad weather we will move the service indoors to the fellowship hall. Following the service you are all invited to join us as we take our pets to South Central Park for a time of continued fellowship.

My friends, there is so much to celebrate as we look ahead to what the future might bring. Continue to be the light that shines in the lives of others, and let us strive to bring more light and love into this world.

Blessings and Peace,  
Pastor Arik



### **Moderator's Moment – Roy Dreger**

A while back Karen and I went to a dance recital in which one of our granddaughters participated. The dancers were quite good, given what I know about dance, and the audience was appreciative of their efforts. Then the preschool class came on with two older dancers to help them. Where the older dancers were very structured and aware of the audience, these young dancers were just enjoying themselves (for the most part). Yes, there were a few that were more interested in looking at the crowd, but most were really into dancing--their way. They would follow along until they came to a part they enjoyed, like jumping, and then they would just jump or twirl or stomp until they were ready to move on. They weren't embarrassed or self-conscious; they were just enjoying what they were doing. When they stopped doing their own dance they would just start back in following the leaders until the next time they did something they really enjoyed, and then they would keep doing it until they were ready to move on. These dancers, although not polished, received the biggest applause of the night, just for being natural.

It struck me that as Christians we sometimes are too aware of how we appear to others. We sometimes try too hard to be the way we think others see us as churchgoers and end up playing a role. Or else, we try to appear as someone not a part of the Church because we are self-conscious and afraid of being seen as too "churchy". Imagine what it would be like if we were like those little ones and just let go and showed our enthusiasm for our Church and our God. Wow! That would be something!

Have a safe 4<sup>th</sup> of July and, on a totally unrelated note...please remember to keep your pledges up-to-date during this vacation season.

### **Christian Education Corner – Mary Karlovec**

This church is truly blessed to have so many wonderful, caring people that live their life of faith every day. Sometimes when I am frustrated by all that is



happening in the world, someone(s) in this congregation remind me this little church is a beacon of light in whatever we do or wherever we go.

In the past month I have witnessed this many times over. Walking in the PRIDE Parade in Cleveland was a first time experience for our church. We were a small group but by participating, we raised awareness of who we are. Pushing Matt Karlovec in his wheelchair with Claire Wolanski walking by his side, was heartwarming to me. It hit home that we are doing the right thing at this church - teaching children to become adults who show their love and concern for others!

Then there is the popcorn/lemonade stand at the Sunday morning coffee hour. This project, spearheaded by the wonderful Dornan moms, came out of a very challenging CE meeting where our CE budget for curriculum was under discussion. I will be honest that my frustration bubbled over because the money was not there to purchase what was needed to buy the fall/winter curriculum. Thus the lemonade stand idea. As I write this, we can now purchase ALL of the fall curriculum and are on our way to meeting our goal for winter! My thanks to a special benefactor who made a generous donation! Continue to look for the lemonade stand throughout the summer.

Then there are the weeds, LOTS and LOTS of weeds! My yard has been neglected for a long time and needs a complete makeover but time and energy have not been there for me to accomplish this. I was sharing my frustration with someone and they shared it with Renee Dornan. A few days later, Charlotte and Renee showed up and started weeding the front yard. A week later, Renee and kids (including the 3 year olds) were there weeding some more! A random act of kindness I appreciate more than words can say!

These three examples have impacted me personally in just the last 30 days. Just imagine what we could do if each of us continued to reach out and shared our faith outside of our four walls of the church! Can you think of one thing YOU ARE DOING or CAN DO this summer? Our youth group has! They are going to Orville, Ohio August 4 and 18 to help serve lunch at a

summer food program for kids looking for volunteers!



**Don't forget that we are doing DIY/VBS on 4 Sundays this summer!**

June 24 – **Our Community** – visited the NR police and fire departments and took them goodie bags to show our appreciation of them!  
July 8 - **Our Faith and Fitness:** bring a lunch and join us for an afternoon of learning about food and healthy snacks, helping your heart rate work for you, easy yoga, games and fun! We will be done by 3:00!

July 22 - **Reaching Out Into Our Community:** bring a lunch and join us for a discussion about how we can play a role in anti-bullying as well as reaching out into our community to support others! There will be many team building activities and lots of fun! We will be done by 3:00!

August 19 - **Renew, Relax and Rejoice!** we will travel to Pier Lon Campgrounds for an afternoon of FAMILY FUN! Bring a lunch to eat there and then enjoy the lake for swimming and fishing, a sand castle building contest, a scavenger hunt and lots of time just to visit and relax with others as we begin to ready ourselves for fall! We will conclude with a cook-out at 4:30ish. There is a cost to enter the park. It is \$6 per person for those over 3 years old. Remember that all of these events are **INTERGENERATIONAL** so everyone is welcome! Please sign up outside Mary's office! Just a reminder: **Backpack Sunday is August 19!**

**Outreach Committee News – Nancy Franks**

May the grace and love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ continue to bless this congregation of believers and followers of the way.

We come to tell you, yes you the congregation, just how awesome you are!! The rummage sale of used treasures brought in \$1,143 toward the restoration of the back entrance to our church home...and you helped

to do that by bringing in some fine stuff for folks to buy! Thank you...and thank you for all the help we had to make it run smoothly and be a successful fundraiser!

Another successful fundraiser with proceeds going toward the back entrance project was the dining out day at Applebee's, which earned us \$156.59! Awesome!

Our special mission offering in May – Strengthen the Church – pulled together \$218.00 to build new congregations and encourage young ministers to lead these newly established churches where needed.

The Community Care summer lunch program has started. Outreach has send \$200 to purchase snack items such as **fruit &**



**pudding cups, Jello cups, and individually wrapped cookies, cupcakes, granola bars, etc.** for the

lunch boxes. If you are willing, through August please donate the items listed above so 500 lunches per week can be packed until school begins again. Thank you from all of the kids receiving them!!

Care Notes (the right words at the right time) little booklets are available in Fellowship Hall on the table next to the mailboxes starting this month. Outreach members find these a huge help in our visitations during the year and maybe you will too.

“Boxes from Home” is in need of used magazines (appropriate for male or female service members), travel size deodorant, mouthwash, hard candy (individually wrapped) and other items to be mentioned when needed. A collection box is in the narthex. Linda and Skip Spayd have helped to send out nine more boxes to our troops overseas. Have the name of a service person? We would be happy to add them to our list. Write down their name, rank, and service address and your own name and phone number to answer any questions we might have.

During coffee hour on July 29 will be potluck salad Sunday. Bring a salad to share after church in Fellowship Hall. Stay and enjoy

great fellowship and yummy fixins for lunch. Plates and beverages provided.

Remember "For Such a Time as This". Write or email your senators and representatives in Congress and urge them to co-sponsor the Global Food Security Reauthorization Act (S.2269 and H.R.5129). This is preparing for the 2019 budget being set up and discussed now. A sample letter and addresses can be found later in this newsletter.

### **Deacons' Desk – Karen Dreger**

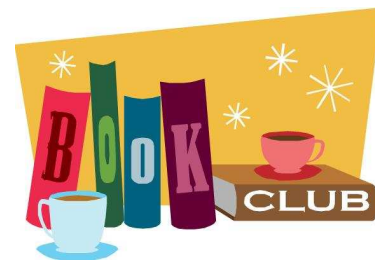
Did you know that New York City has the biggest fireworks display in the United States and three U.S. presidents died on July 4<sup>th</sup>? The fourth of July - also known as Independence Day - has only been a federal holiday since 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the American Revolution.

I love history and learning people's stories through their eyes or from others. I'm also interested in the history of our Church. My parents were married in this Church in 1947 and raised six children. I was baptized here and officially became a member in 1962. Roy and I were married here in 1970. I would like to hear the stories others have of this Church. The Church will be having a birthday celebration soon and those stories need to be told and written down for future generations. Just a short remembrance of an event like Bible School, Church camp, youth events, or visits to the cemetery...every story adds to the big picture. Please share yours with the Church. There is a committee working on our Church birthday celebration and they would love to hear from you.

### **Trustees' Turn – Pete Veliconia**

As you read this at least one of this year's goals may be finished (weather permitting): the resealing and restriping of the parking lot. We know it's only been a couple of years since we added on but hopefully this will protect our investment and keep the asphalt strong and solid for years to come. This is one of the things that we look at - keeping our investments as

long as possible. Over the past few years, the trustees have a formal plan to keep our heating and cooling systems strong. This will ensure proper performance and save costs in the long run. Part of our job is to ensure that we use our funds in the best possible way, and we try to do this whenever possible. We ask for your patience as we always work to improve our facilities and the minor inconveniences that come with change. We have implemented a plan and every meeting we look at our goals to see where we are and if we are making the proper progress toward them. I hope to report soon on a couple of projects that need to be completed this year... Stay tuned.



### **Women's Book Club**

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.

- 7/3 Sebastian Smoker
- 7/6 Joan Bier
- 7/6 Dahlia Wolanski
- 7/14 Bob Karlovec
- 7/14 Sage Borstad
- 7/15 Jenn Anderson
- 7/15 Edie Phillips
- 7/18 Cliff Schreiber
- 7/25 Diana Goode
- 7/25 Andrea Summer



- 7/3 Bob & Nancy Franks
- 7/4 Greg & Kim Cromwell
- 7/18 Bob & Mary Karlovec
- 7/21 Brian & Barb Zinsmeister
- 7/22 John & Dawn Alpine
- 7/24 Mark & Jen Murphy
- 7/25 Arik & Allison Borstad



"Our Community" DIY VBS



Uh oh... Pastor Arik and Miss Mary at the police station!! #DIYVBS

### ***Ushers & Greeters***

July	
1	Tim & Tess Anderson, Nancy Long
8	Vi Elrod, Dale & Becky Williams
15	Vonnie Packard, Bob Franks, Regenia Comerford
22	Millie Gilly, Mary Ireland, Joe Pesch
29	Ric Sasse, Edie Phillips, Barb Tobin

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

### ***Acolytes***

July	
1	Will Schupbach
8	Mackenzie Pero-Luter
15	Jillian Smoker
22	Abigail Packard
29	Claire Wolanski

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

### ***Nursery***

July	
1	Shirley Sunyak
8	Linda Matis
15	Renee Dorman
22	Ann Olesen
29	Shirley Sunyak



### **Blessing of the Animals – Support Friendship APL of Lorain County**

We are asking people to bring a donation for Friendship APL for animals who haven't found their forever homes yet. You can make a monetary donation or donate any of these items: cat litter, canned and dry dogs and cat food (they really need canned dog food), and used towels and blankets.

Thank you for the lovely luncheon you provided after mom's service. We appreciated the opportunity to share it with friends and family and share memories. You provide a wonderful ministry.

Thank you,  
The Betty Noland Family



Thank you for the prayers and well wishes for my return to good health following my shoulder surgery. Therapy begins now and I will be back serving the church again soon!

Nancy (& Bob) Franks

**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]

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](mailto: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.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Communion Worship service 10 am Coffee hour 11 am	<b>2</b>  AA Women 7 pm	<b>3</b>  AA 1 <sup>st</sup> Step 8:30 pm	<b>4</b> Independence Day OFFICE CLOSED 	<b>5</b>  AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	<b>6</b>  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>Parking lot sealing &amp; striping</b>  <b>*weather permitting</b> </div>	<b>7</b>  Yoga 11 am Couples Recovery 6 pm
<b>8</b> Worship service 10 am Coffee hour 11 am July birthdays' celebration VBS noon – 3 pm	<b>9</b>  AA Women 7 pm	<b>10</b> CE 6:30 pm Trustees 7 pm  AA 1 <sup>st</sup> Step 8:30 pm	<b>11</b>  4-H 7 pm	<b>12</b>  AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	<b>13</b>  	<b>14</b> Sage's 1 <sup>st</sup> birthday party 4 pm @ Borstad's home  Yoga 11 am Couples Recovery 6 pm
<b>15</b> Blessing of the Animals worship service 10 am Coffee hour 11 am	<b>16</b> Newsletter articles due Women's Book Club 6:30 pm @ Krista's  AA Women 7 pm	<b>17</b>  AA 1 <sup>st</sup> Step 8:30 pm	<b>18</b>  4-H 7 pm	<b>19</b> Council 7 pm  AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	<b>20</b>  	<b>21</b>  Yoga 11 am Couples Recovery 6 pm
<b>22</b> Worship service 10 am Coffee hour 11 am VBS noon - 3 pm	<b>23</b>  AA Women 7 pm	<b>24</b>  AA 1 <sup>st</sup> Step 8:30 pm	<b>25</b>  4-H 7 pm	<b>26</b>  AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	<b>27</b> Hospitality w/a Heart  LCAS 6:30 pm	<b>28</b>  Yoga 11 am Couples Recovery 6 pm
<b>29</b> Worship service 10 am Potluck salad Sunday/ coffee hour 11 am Deacons 11 am	<b>30</b>  AA Women 7 pm	<b>31</b>  AA 1 <sup>st</sup> Step 8:30 pm	