

The Messenger

The monthly newsletter of First Congregational Church UCC of North Ridgeville

August 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

August is upon us, and somehow this year seems to be moving quicker than any before! I have often heard that the years speed by once you have a child, but I didn't expect time to move *this* quickly!

That being said, as the summer begins to draw to a close, we will be taking a closer look at what fall has in store. August marks the last month of our summer schedule and we will be wrapping up our VBS adventure as well. On August 19 you are invited to join us in worship as we bless our backpacks, briefcases, and schoolbags for the students, teachers, and staff; and then we invite you all to join us for our final day of VBS after worship as we celebrate the end of summer at Pier Lon campground.

Then beginning on September 2 we will be returning to our two service schedule with a fellowship hour in between. For those who are unfamiliar with the differences between the services, this is a quick reminder of what each service will look like:

9:00 am – **"Coffee Shop Service"** Fellowship Hall (downstairs)

This service is our more "contemporary" service with a less liturgical and more casual atmosphere. This service incorporates more contemporary music as well as using audio and visual aids every week to enhance the worship experience. Sitting at several round tables, worshipers are encouraged to get up and get coffee and eat snacks during the service, promoting more of a casual "coffee shop" atmosphere than an actual church sanctuary. This service is a bit shorter than our traditional service and runs about forty minutes long. If you are looking for engaging and thought provoking worship without the typical "church" feel, this is the perfect service for you!

10:30 am – **"Traditional Service"** Sanctuary (main level)

This service is our more liturgical worship service, though by no means is it boring or dull! This service incorporates more liturgical elements that you might have experienced at other churches. We sing hymns from our hymnal and have a talented organist to complement our worship experience. Our choir sings each Sunday during the school year, and this is also the service where children will be invited to participate in Sunday School halfway through the service. We draw upon familiar traditions that we find comforting, while still keeping the service energetic and life-giving. If you find liturgy and ritual comforting, this is the perfect service for you!



You are invited to come to whichever service best feeds your spirit, or come to both if you so desire! As we prepare to move forward into the fall, it is my hope that we can continue to be the affirming community we have always been, as we look toward spreading our love and faith throughout the world.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Arik

Moderator's Moment – Roy Dreger

It was something many people in town commented on. Stanley would leave home and pick up his farm workers and then return, throw the tools they would need into the trunk, and drive his workers into the fields. At the end of the workday he would drive into the fields, pick the workers up, and take them back home. Why was this a topic of conversation? It was because his car was a Rolls Royce.

This is how it happened that Stanley had a Rolls Royce, as told to me by a long-time Avon resident. You see, Stanley liked a certain brand and model American car and his current one was getting worn out, so he went to the dealership where he had bought his others to buy a new one. As was his custom, Stanley just left the field where he was working and, without changing clothes, would get in his car and go where ever it was that he was headed. In this case the car dealership. As luck would have it, when he got to the dealership there was a new salesperson there who looked at Stanley in his work clothes with dirt and patches, and pretty much ignored him. Stanley was not one who easily suffered fools, so when it became evident that he was being ignored, he left. A few days later he drove through the dealership's car lot in his new Rolls Royce, to let the salesman know that he had badly misjudged Stanley's ability to buy a car.

This is a classic case of judging people before you know them. You know, it really is like the saying goes that you can't judge a book by its cover. I hope that as a congregation we don't let ourselves make such a mistake.

I hope that everyone is having a safe and happy summer!

Christian Education Corner – Mary Karlovec

August, known as the dog days of summer, is actually one of the busiest times for a director of Christian Education. It is a time to wrap up all those last minute summer activities planned as well as put fall programming in place.

So looking ahead to August and September... Our youth group will be on the road this August to Orville, Ohio to help with their summer lunch program. They will be helping on **FRIDAY, August 3 and FRIDAY, August 17. (Parents note day change.)** We will be leaving the church at approximately noon each day and returning around 5:00 pm. A revised letter has been sent to all 4th-6th grade parents.

Sunday, August 19 is Backpack

Sunday during the 10 am worship service! Everyone is invited to bring their backpack, work bag or briefcase to have it blessed as we head into Fall and a new school year!



Sunday, August 19 is our last **DIY VBS** and it will be held at Pier Lon Campground from noon to 6 pm. Pier Lon is located down St. Rt. 83 (about a half hour from the church).

Directions will be distributed the day of the event. The cost of admission to the campground is \$6.00 per person for those older than 3. Bring a lunch to eat when you get there in the pavilion and a dish to share for dinner. (Hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, lemonade and tableware will be provided!) There is a beautiful beach and a lake for swimming. You can rent paddle boats and there is a great ice cream stand. We will be having a sand castle building contest, a scavenger hunt, crafts and time for fellowship and just plain old relaxation! Please consider joining us! This is an **INTER-GENERATIONAL** event so **EVERYONE** is invited!



Sunday, September 9 is our first day of **Sunday School** for the 2018-19 school year! We have four levels this year:

- ❖ **our young 3 year olds,**
- ❖ **our 4 year olds - 1st graders,**
- ❖ **our 2nd - 3rd graders and**

❖ **our 4th - 6th graders.**

I am in need of team teachers for all four levels! You will only be responsible for one or two Sundays a month! This is a wonderful way to get to know our kids and a great way to support the church! Please see me with any questions! A

teacher's orientation will be held on Tuesday, August 21 at 6:30 pm!

Finally, a huge THANK YOU to Diana Goode and Holly Chalkwater for leading DIY VBS sessions and the Christian Education board for their help and support!



Outreach Committee News – Nancy Franks

Good news!! Thanks to June Yost and Barb Zinsmeister, our committee has received our Community Care special family's names and birthdates to send a little hope and happiness to throughout the years ahead. The first child, Eric, was born in July and his birthday bag is on the way, bringing him joy on his special day. Thank you to YOU, the congregation, for making this possible with your gifts to Outreach each month.

Remember the Community Care summer lunch program and to donate snack items to fill 500 lunches each week. Fruit and pudding cups, Jell-O cups, and (individually wrapped) cookies, cupcakes and granola bars make great snacks. This program goes on until school begins. Donations can be placed in the boxes in the narthex or fellowship hall.

Back to school items are needed, especially socks and underwear for both boys and girls age kindergarten through senior high. There is a collection box in the Sunday School wing under the little red school house for your new items. Please be generous and thank you from the kids in advance!

Save your blood donation for our blood drive on Sunday, September 16 from 11 am to 1 pm. We need 20 healthy donors to sign up. Can we count on you??

What?!? You forgot?!? Well, you're in luck...there's still time! Time for you to do your part to raise your voice in Washington to

overcome hunger and world poverty. As our government works on the fiscal budget for 2019, let them know that key programs like SNAP, S.2269 and H.R. 5129 help co-sponsor global food security for starving people worldwide. A sample letter can be found later in this newsletter. Please send your voice in to make a difference in someone's life. Lives depend on it!

"Think a friend who has been knocked out of the flow of life. Reach out to her or him today – a phone call, an e-mail, a letter, a visit or a gift – and let Jesus pour out His love through you."
(copied from Mornings with Jesus publication)



Working for you to help serve others

—your Outreach Committee

Deacons' Desk – Tracy Smoker

Science and religion: strange bedfellows? While convention often dictates that those who are interested, focused, and passionate about science are not religious, this is at odds with quite a few people in the scientific community.

Dr. Jennifer J. Wiseman is the Hubble Senior Project Scientist at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD, working to ensure that the Hubble mission is as scientifically productive as possible. Dr. Wiseman expresses how she does not have conflict between science and her faith, though that doesn't stop her from having unanswered questions.

This lack of conflict for her comes from her upbringing in a church in the Ozark Mountains of Arkansas. She speaks about her pastor's advising that a literal interpretation of Genesis is not required and that God may have held back some details from the few verses of scripture that address the beginning of the world. There is a possibility that a day with God as laid out in Genesis differs from our terrestrial definition of a day being 24 hours. To God, it could have been a year, ten years, a thousand years. Regardless of God's definition of a day, Dr. Wiseman is proof that science and religion are not mutually exclusive to each other.

Trustees' Turn – Pete Veliconia

As we pass the halfway point of 2018, we are still working on and hope to finish a couple of big projects on our to-do list. We have completed the parking lot refurbishment; and, I must say, it looks even better than we hoped.

The next big item is the back entrance overhang replacement. As with all projects, there is a lot that has to happen before the actual work begins and that is where we are right now. We are working with both the architect and the construction company to ensure that everything that we hope to happen (within budget) does happen. While the planning for one of these projects can take a long time and sometimes these can be rushed, we hope to make sure that we consider the people doing the work, the actual project and the truth that we must be good stewards of the building and hope to get the best return on investment.

There are a couple of things that we would love to do this year, but the projects will only be done on an "if money is available" basis. We have taken a hit with a couple of repair projects that were costly and were unforeseen. As with a household budget, we must watch the costs and will not overspend unless we need to. We hope to see progress soon and will keep everyone updated.



Women's Book Club

Our next meeting will be the joint picnic meeting with First Congregational Elyria's book club. We will gather on Monday, **August 20** at Bur Oak pavilion #1, 6150 Ford Road in Elyria at 5:30 pm. Bring side dishes or desserts to share. We will be discussing Debbie Macomber's Any Dream Will Do.

Our September meeting will be on **September 17** at the church at 7:00 pm to discuss Max Lucado's Traveling Light. Our October meeting will be **October 15** at the church at 7:00 pm discussing Jody Picoult's Small Great Things. All women are welcome!

- 8/7 Sandy Chalkwater
- 8/8 Dawn Alpine
- 8/9 Mike Bier
- 8/9 Ann Olesen
- 8/13 Kelsey Veliconia
- 8/14 Will Schupbach
- 8/16 Peggy Poe
- 8/17 Cathy Cornman
- 8/18 Kathy Pero
- 8/20 Lily Dornan
- 8/20 Bob Franks
- 8/21 Gayle Hannold
- 8/23 Bob Franks
- 8/24 Noah Morrow



8/31 George & Jody Millar

Ushers & Greeters

July 29	Ric Sasse, Edie Phillips, Barb Tobin
August	
5	Lynne Petroff, Krista O'Neill, Nancy Findlay
12	Shirley Sunyak, Dale & Becky Williams
19	Pete Veliconia, Tim & Tess Anderson
26	Vi Elrod, Vonnie Packard, Nancy Long
September	
2	Regenia Comerford, Mary Ireland, Joe Pesch

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

Acolytes

July 29	Claire Wolanski
August	
5	Jillian Smoker
12	Rhys Kyser
19	Alexys Webb
26	Ben Dorman
September	
2	Dahlia Wolanski

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

Nursery

July 29	Shirley Sunyak
August	
5	Linda Matis
12	Renee Dornan
19	Ann Olesen
26	Shirley Sunyak
September	
2	Linda Matis

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



Come to Yoga!

When: Saturdays 11am - 12 pm

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.



Donations for APL: We are collecting for Friendship APL of Lorain County for animals who haven't found their forever homes yet. You can make a monetary donation or donate any of the items on the following list. Donations will be accepted until August 12.

- 🐾 Canned or dry cat/kitten, dog/puppy food
- 🐾 Cat litter, toys, beds
- 🐾 Sheets, blankets
- 🐾 Latex-free gloves (size lg)
- 🐾 Bleach, paper towels, sponges, laundry detergent, hand sanitizer
- 🐾 Saline solution, Q-tips
- 🐾 Tall kitchen & 45 gallon trash bags
- 🐾 Copy paper, pens, post-it notes, pet store gift cards

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 4-H 7 pm	2 AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	3 Youth group event noon-5 pm	4 Yoga 11 am Couples Recovery 6 pm
5 Outreach 9 am Communion Worship service 10 am Coffee hour 11 am	6 AA Women 7 pm	7 CE 6:30 pm Trustees 7 pm AA 1 st Step 8:30 pm	8 4-H 7 pm	9 AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	10	11 Yoga 11 am Couples Recovery 6 pm
12 Worship service 10 am Coffee hour 11 am August birthdays' celebration	13 AA Women 7 pm	14 AA 1 st Step 8:30 pm	15 4-H 7 pm	16 Council 7 pm Newsletter articles due AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	17 Youth group event noon-5 pm	18 Yoga 11 am Couples Recovery 6 pm
19 Communion Backpack Sunday Worship service 10 am Coffee hour 11 am VBS at Pier Lon Campground	20 Women's Book Club at Bur Oak pavilion AA Women 7 pm	21 Sunday School teacher orientation 6:30 pm AA 1 st Step 8:30 pm	22 4-H 7 pm	23 AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	24	25 Yoga 11 am Couples Recovery 6 pm
26 Worship service 10 am Coffee hour 11 am Deacons 11 am	27 AA Women 7 pm	28 AA 1 st Step 8:30 pm	29 4-H 7 pm	30 AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	31 Hospitality w/a Heart	

