

The Messenger

The monthly newsletter of First Congregational Church UCC of North Ridgeville

October 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

October has arrived! Pumpkin spice is in the air as the leaves begin to pile up in my backyard. Hopefully this is a time of relaxation and joy for you as the weather begins to turn to those brisk fall days I love so much.

Yet even as the weather changes, things are heating up at First Congregational UCC! As we enter fall with renewed vigor, there are plenty of new things taking place at church in the month of October!

On October 7 we will be celebrating **World Communion Sunday** in worship as we partake in this holy sacrament with our brothers and sisters all over the globe. Please join us as we recognize the importance of unity and fellowship in our world!

Also, starting October 7, on the first Sundays of the month following the second service and fellowship time, we will be holding a monthly **adult education series and Bible study**. Beginning around noon, each month we will do a deeper dive into our scripture and various issues of faith. Participants are encouraged to bring their Bibles with them, but extras will be available if needed. Whether you come every month or only once in a while, we hope you take advantage of this new opportunity!

On October 14 following the second service we will be holding a **new members' class** for anyone interested in becoming a member of our congregation! Come for a brief session to learn what the UCC is about, how we came to be, and what it means to be a member of our faith family. As we continue to grow in numbers and in love, we hope you will consider making the commitment to become an official member of our congregation!

On October 21 at noon you are invited to join us after worship for our **silent auction** as we raise money for our organ repairs. The silent auction will have appetizers and beverages provided as members of our church auction off some of their creations to our community. If you are still interested in donating items, whether it be baked goods, crafts, poetry, or anything else, we ask that you have the items at the church by the Sunday prior (except for the baked goods) so we can begin our preparations. If you have your items already completed and ready to donate, feel free to drop them off at the church at any time.

Finally, on October 28 we invite you to join us for our **Trunk or Treat** celebration in our parking lot! Come with your family and friends as we dress in costume and pass out candy to our kids from incredibly decorated

car trunks! This is a wonderful opportunity to invite neighbors and friends to join us in the celebration as they see how close we are as a faith family.

Without question there is a lot going on this month! I hope everyone will take the opportunity to jump headfirst into some of these programs and take advantage of all that our church has to offer. Thanksgiving and Advent are just around the corner (yikes!) so we look forward to all the possibilities that the end of the year will bring!



Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Arik

Moderator's Moment – Roy Dreger

Awesome. Incredible. Amazing. These are just some words to describe you—both you as an individual and you as a congregation. There are many other ways for you to spend your time, talents and money, but you have chosen this church out of all the others. No matter the reason you are here, the point is YOU ARE HERE. I am grateful for your presence and everything you bring to this church. I am also grateful for your financial support.

If this sounds like its leading to a column about pledging, you are right. It is October and the annual pledge drive is going to kick off this month. I know it has been said many times that pledged money allows us to put together our budget (to be presented in November) and plan for the future, but it is hard to understate the need for it.

I could mention all the other congregations that preceded this congregation. I could mention how we are here because they felt that this church was important enough for them to contribute to it. I could, but I won't, because it has been mentioned many times how indebted we are to those past congregations. Now is the time to think about the congregations yet to come and give what you can so that they will be able to appreciate our

contributions to them. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of your pledge.

Christian Education Corner – Mary Karlovec

Fall Sunday School programming got off to an interesting start as I was directing Heather and Kelsey via Matt's hospital room! But it ended up well thanks to lots of leg work done ahead of time! Thanks to Heather, Kelsey and the rest of the CE Board for stepping up that first Sunday. Speaking of stepping up... HUGE thanks to Linda Matis, Barb Tobin and Kris and Kurt Dornan for volunteering to teach Sunday School! They join veteran teachers Jenn Anderson, Sandy Chalkwater, Kathy Pero, Susan Dornan, Renee Dornan and Heather Smith to round out our staff. Big thanks to Kelsey and the rest of the CE Board who are assisting on many Sundays in the classrooms as our numbers continue to grow!

Our youth were scheduled to attend a weekend lock-in in Elmore, Ohio in September. But due to a family medical emergency, the musical leader, Andra Moran was in California instead of Ohio! Please keep Andra and her family in your prayers as her mom developed spinal meningitis and has had several complications. Andra has promised that she will reschedule the event as soon as possible. Special thanks to Matt Hogue-Smith for filling in for Pastor Arik, who deserved a little R &R since he wasn't on lock-in duty!

It is October so it is **TRUNK OR TREAT TIME!** Mark your calendar for Sunday, October 28 from 6-7 pm. We are in need of people

willing to park in the church parking lot, open their trunks full of candy and join the fun! You can decorate your trunk or not, wear a costume or not but come be part of this intergenerational event.



If you cannot attend, donations of individually wrapped Halloween candy are needed! Drop off in Mary's office. After trunk or treating, we will have a craft available, a story and cupcakes/punch to round out the hour. Family and friends are invited but

please note that trunk or treating is for kids 12 and younger. A car sign-up sheet and a sign-up sheet for those attending is outside Mary's office starting October 1. If you are planning on attending, **the deadline to register is October 24!**

Upcoming events...

November 18: **Messy Christmas** (similar to the program we did during Lent)

December 9: **Gingerbread House Construction**

Outreach Committee News – Nancy Franks

Thank you, blood donors, for stepping up to make this drive one of our best yet!!

September 16th brought out 16 volunteer donors and 14 were able to donate life-giving whole blood to someone who needs blood now.

Because YOU gave, someone you'll never meet has been given the chance to finish whatever they had started to do and more. Thank you, again!

"For Such a Time as This" – Bread for the World. Congratulations! As a people, we sent in letters, made phone calls, and because of your active involvement and Bread for the World, the Senate passed the Global Food Security Reauthorization Act (S.2269) adopting a farm bill that will help hungry people in our own country and abroad. Now we need to do the same to make sure the House joins the Senate in passing the Global Food Security Act and that together they will create a Final Farm Bill without cuts to essential nutrition and foreign assistance programs. Send your letters to: Bob Gibbs, 7th District, Ohio House of Representatives, 2446 Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington D.D. 20515

Clothing for School Kids: There is a collection box waiting for your donation of new socks and underwear for boys and girls K-12th grade. Please drop donations for Community Care kids through the month of October. Winter is coming and underclothing is important for warmth. Thank you in advance.

Neighbors in Need: This is a special collection in October for our greater United

Church of Christ Family of Churches Pledge to the World Sharing Program. It supports, clean-up, medical needs, food and shelter for disasters in the U.S. and all over the world. The last collection will be taken on October 21. Offering envelopes and bulletin inserts with more info will be available in the Sunday bulletins beginning October 7. Please be generous as you remember those who suffer around the world. Listen for our mission moment, and thank you for caring.

Names and addresses of military personnel serving overseas would be appreciated. Please give info (along with your name and contact info) to the secretary by placing it in the offering plate or drop it in the Outreach mailbox in Fellowship Hall.

Are you considering joining one of the committees so you can get involved in the workings of our church? Outreach might be a group to try! Make your interest in our committee known by placing your request in our mailbox in Fellowship Hall. We'll contact you with information about our committee.

Food for thought: "Be joyful in hope, be patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." Romans 12:12 (NIV)

Deacons' Desk – Tracy Smoker

Historically, Halloween has its roots in the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (pronounced sow-in), which is when they believed that the ghosts of the dead returned to earth. If this sounds familiar, it should. In Latin America, Dia de los Muertos, also known as The Day of the Dead, has a similar history. This holiday is most strongly associated with Mexico, when the dead are honored with festivals and lively celebrations, and the dead themselves are awakened to join in the celebrations.

When doing an online search for the phrase "Halloween and Christianity," the top results relate to the question as to whether or not Christians should celebrate Halloween. Though Halloween is on October 31, perhaps unsurprising and already known to most, there is no relationship between Halloween and Christianity. The debate for whether



or not to celebrate Halloween as a Christian is related to its ancient origins.

Today, Halloween is a day when people dress up and go out to get free candy. It is a completely secular holiday. I love Halloween. It rivals Christmas in my absolute enjoyment of the season. There is no personal debate: Halloween is a fun day, separate from any Christian holidays.

Trustees' Turn – Pete Veliconia

It's that time of year again, the time that the Trustees really do not like. We will be ones again asking for more money. One of the jobs that we have is to be stewards of the money that is given. We take this job seriously and try to do the best job possible. There will be a letter sent out soon that will detail this year's theme, the timeline, and schedule of events. Please look for it and prayerfully consider what you can give to our church.

The process toward doing any major project is painstakingly slow and deliberate and can be frustrating, even maddening, at times. But rest assured, things are getting done. When you work with different people and companies, it is a challenge to fit into others' schedules and timelines. Face it. If they are busy, it's a good thing. There is a myriad of things that go on behind the scenes and it's always three steps forward and two steps back, but progress is being made. We hope to have news soon on a couple of projects. Thank you for your patience.

I just want to take a minute to thank all the members of our staff. It sure is nice to have a group that will work together without a lot of drama. I feel that we have the strongest team that we have ever had and it is pleasure to work with each and every one of them.

Parish Nurse's Notes – Karen Dreger

It's that time of year again - FLU SEASON. Dr. Kathleen M. Neuzil, director of the Center for Vaccine Development at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, and Baltimore area pediatrician Dr. Dan Levy have answers to some common questions about this

year's influenza vaccine:

Q. When should I get a flu shot?

A. Now would be good. Flu season is usually between October and April. It tends to peak out in colder months when kids are indoors and coughing on each other. The vaccine takes a week or two to become effective. Children getting the flu shot for the first time need two doses, four weeks apart. "Absolutely, children need to receive a vaccine as early as possible", Neuzil said.

Q. Who should get a vaccine?

A. Almost everyone. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that everyone older than 6 months get a flu vaccine.

Q. I'm healthy. Why do I need a flu shot?

A. It's not all about you. Remember that you're getting an influenza vaccine to protect the people around you, such as babies, elderly folks and those with compromised immune systems.

Q. Can I get a nasal spray?

A. Yes. This year the nasal spray will be widely available in the United States. Neuzil said it's just as effective as a shot for people ages 2 and older.

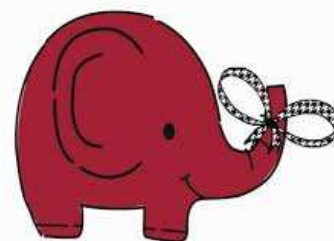
Q. Is it possible to get the flu after being vaccinated?

A. Yes. "The vaccine is never 100% effective," Levy said. Still, even for those who do end up getting the flu, the vaccine will help it be less severe, (and it will be less likely that the patient winds up in the hospital.

Q. Can I get sick from the flu shot?

A. No. "You cannot get sick from the flu shot," Neuzil said. "There's no live virus there."

Don't take a chance.
Please get your flu shot soon.



Don't forget your flu shot!



Women's Book Club

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!

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Thank you, church family, for cards, calls and words of encouragement during my long recuperation.
Nancy Franks
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- 10/1 Emily Williams
- 10/6 Ronda Van Den Bossche
- 10/7 Lynne Lipperman
- 10/8 Pat Kyle
- 10/8 Mark Murphy
- 10/11 Nate Schupbach
- 10/11 Jennie Vulcan
- 10/20 Dreama Stamper
- 10/23 Nancy Long
- 10/26 Matt Karlovec
- 10/28 Norma Curren



- 10/11 Dean & Lynne Lipperman
- 10/18 Mike & Joan Bier
- 10/18 Paul & Liz Wolanski
- 10/20 Gary & Gayle Hannold
- 10/27 Bob & Dreama Stamper

Ushers & Greeters

September	
30	Millie Gilly, Pete Veliconia, Bob Franks
October	
7	Vi Elrod, Nancy Long, Regenia Comerford
14	Tim & Tess Anderson, Mary Ireland
21	Vonnie Packard, Joe Pesch, Ric Sasse
28	Edie Phillips, Lynne Petroff, Krista O'Neill

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

Acolytes & Junior Deacon

September		
30	Will Schupbach	n/a
October		
7	Mackenzie Pero-Luter	Ben Dorman
14	Jillian Smoker	n/a
21	Abigail Packard	n/a
28	Claire Wolanski	n/a

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

Nursery

September	
30	Linda Matis
October	
7	Renee Dorman
14	Ann Olesen
21	Shirley Sunyak
28	Linda Matis



Sunday, October 21, 2018
 at 12:00 p.m.
 to raise funds to repair the church's pipe organ

The organ is a 1950-something Blanchard pipe organ and is a staple of our worship services. It is in need of some major repairs, totaling approx. \$25,000.

Some items you will be able to bid on are:

- quilt made by Betty Noland
- handmade coasters
- crocheted blankets
- photography
- woodworking items
- and many more!!!

Light refreshments will be available during the auction.

Bring your checkbooks,
 win some wonderful items,
 and help us repair our pipe organ!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 AA Women 7 pm	2 CE 7 pm Trustees 7 pm AA 1 st Step 8:30 pm	3 Choir 7 pm	4 AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	5	6 Yoga 11 am Couples Recovery 6 pm
7 Outreach 9 am WORLD COMMUNION Coffee Shop Service 9:00 Traditional Service 10:30 Fellowship time 9:45 & 11:30	8 AA Women 7 pm	9 AA 1 st Step 8:30 pm	10 Choir 7 pm	11 AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	12	13 Yoga 11 am Couples Recovery 6 pm
14 Coffee Shop Service 9:00 October birthdays' celebration Traditional Service 10:30 Fellowship time 9:45 & 11:30 New members' class 11:30	15 Women's Book Club 7 pm AA Women 7 pm	16 Newsletter articles due AA 1 st Step 8:30 pm	17 Choir 7 pm	18 Council 7 pm AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	19	20 Yoga 11 am Couples Recovery 6 pm
21 Communion Coffee Shop Service 9:00 Traditional Service 10:30 Fellowship time 9:45 & 11:30 Silent Auction noon	22 AA Women 7 pm	23 AA 1 st Step 8:30 pm	24 Choir 7 pm	25 AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	26 Hospitality with a Heart LCAS 6:30 pm	27 Yoga 11 am Couples Recovery 6 pm
28 Coffee Shop Service 9:00 Traditional Service 10:30 Deacons 11:30 Fellowship time 9:45 & 11:30 Trunk or Treat 6-7 pm	29 AA Women 7 pm	30 AA 1 st Step 8:30 pm	31 Choir 7 pm 			

Upcoming Dates to Remember...

November 4: All Saints' Sunday
November 18: Congregational meeting
November 22 & 23: Office closed

November 24: Decorate church for holidays
December 1: Craft show
December 2: 1st Sunday of Advent

December 9: Gingerbread house building