

The Messenger

The monthly newsletter of First Congregational Church UCC of North Ridgeville

March 2019

Pastor

Rev. Arik Borstad

Director, Christian Education

Mary Karlovec

Music Director

Kerry Davis

Moderator

Roy Dreger

Vice-Moderator

Nancy Franks

Co-Chairs, Christian Education

Kelsey Veliconia

Renee Dornan

Co-Chairs, Deacons

Diana Goode

Lynne Petroff

Chair, Outreach

Nancy Franks

Chair, Trustees

Pete Veliconia

Treasurer, Secretary

Linda Matis



From the Pastor's Pen

March has always been an exciting month in our calendar year. It is a time of transition as we move away from the winter weather and look ahead to the promise of new life that spring provides. It is a time where the beauty of the earth begins to shine through in our lives, as grass and flowers prepare to burst forth into the world in all of their splendor. It is also a time of transition and personal growth, as well. March is a time where we are in the midst of Lent, as we look ahead to the promise of Easter in early April. It is a time of new life and new beginnings as we begin to discern who we are as a congregation, and where we want to grow as a faith community.

There are many events worth mentioning this month, including our annual Swiss Steak Dinner that takes place on March 2. It is one of the biggest fundraisers we do each year, and the money we raise helps ensure that the congregation will be a fixture in our community in the decades to come.

The following week, on March 9, we are holding a workshop for people interested in removing the fear and stigma out of death and the dying process. Bringing in a "Death Doula," we will be exploring how we can best support our friends and loved ones who are reaching the end of life's journey. The session will run from 11 am until 1 pm, and light refreshments will be provided.

Finally, on March 30, our church will be hosting a spaghetti dinner fundraiser for Matt and Cathleen as they move into their new home. With all of the accessibility modifications that will allow Matt and Cathleen to live independently, the money raised from the dinner will help them offset the cost of their new home. Matt and Cathleen have long been a blessing to our congregation and this is one small way we can support them and show our love as they take embark upon this next chapter of life.

As the winter fades and spring begins to blossom in our world, I invite us to take notice of the life that surrounds us. Let us celebrate the newness that life brings! But most of all, let us give thanks that the cycle of life continues each year, so that we might better appreciate the lives we live and the world we inhabit.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Arik

Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime. – Martin Luther

Moderator's Moment – Roy Dreger

After my mother passed I was looking through her well-worn Bible and found a page from the bulletin of her church with a paraphrase of the following poem by Charles Osgood on it. I lost that page, but maybe you have read something like this:

There was a most important job that needed to be done,
And no reason not to do it, there was absolutely none.
But in vital matters such as this, the thing you have to ask
Is who exactly will it be who'll carry out the task?

Anybody could have told you that Everybody knew
That this was something Somebody would surely have to
do.

Nobody was unwilling; Anybody had the ability.
But Nobody believed that it was their responsibility.

It seemed to be a job that Anybody could have done,
If Anybody thought he was supposed to be the one.
But since Everybody recognized that Anybody could,
Everybody took for granted that Somebody would.

But Nobody told Anybody that we are aware of,
That he would be in charge of seeing it was taken care of.
And Nobody took it on himself to follow through,
And do what Everybody thought that Somebody would do.

When what Everybody needed so did not get done at all,
Everybody was complaining that Somebody dropped the
ball.

Anybody then could see it was an awful crying shame,
And Everybody looked around for Somebody to blame.

Somebody should have done the job
And Everybody should have,
But in the end Nobody did
What Anybody could have.

Just remember that YOU are SOMEBODY in this
church. Don't forget the Swiss Steak Dinner!

Christian Education Corner – Mary Karlovec

Hard to believe that March and Lent are
already here! That means there are MANY
upcoming events either sponsored by Christian

Education or involving Christian
Education! First up is **Ash**

Wednesday on March 6! This is
one of my favorite church calendar
days. There is something about the
receiving of the ashes that is profound



and meaningful to me. I ENCOURAGE families
to attend the simple soup meal at 6:00 and
service afterwards. It is an important focal point
for the beginning of Lent that I do not believe
our kids understand the significance of this day.
Please come share it with them!

On **Saturday, March 23** CE is
sponsoring a night at Clague Playhouse. The
musical is SUDS! We have bought out the
house so we need to sell 96 tickets. Please see
the reservation form that is in the Messenger. It
is appropriate for kids as well as adults AND
refreshments at intermission are included in the
price. Grab your family, neighbors and friends
and join us! Proceeds will help pay for the
young adult scholarships for the Women's
Retreat and Christian Education programming.

Saturday, April 13 will be our
intergenerational Lenten Workshop. We will
begin at 4 pm with an opening session, followed
by our annual Easter Egg Hunt. A simple dinner
and Lenten activities will conclude the evening
by 7:30. I am in need of empty cereal boxes
and wrapped Easter candy to fill the eggs! We
filled over 400 eggs last year so we need lots of
candy. There is a blue basket in my office for
candy donations! If you are attending this
event, a signup sheet will be outside my office
with an informational sheet about what to bring!

And finally....although NOT a CE or
church sponsored event, there is a **Spaghetti
Dinner Fundraiser on March 30** to help with
the funds needed to build the accessible home
for Matt and Cathleen. Even
though the builder has made
accessibility changes to the
house with costs involved,
there are still MANY, MANY
things the builder could not
do that need to be done.
Our estimation is another
\$20,000-\$30,000 which means doing some
accommodations in steps.

Many of you have asked what you could
do to help...this is one thing to help with the
initial needs. I need some help with many
behind the scenes things the day of the event,
9x13 or bigger cakes for dessert, donations of
raffle baskets and, of course, people to come
and eat this delicious meal! Your help is so



appreciated and I THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart for your continued support. Spread the word...everyone is invited!

And a ray of hope that winter is almost over! SPRING starts in March!

Outreach Committee News – Nancy Franks

As we enter the month of March, let us begin the report of our endeavors with these words from the bible: "And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ."

Ephesians 3:17-18

As members of Outreach, we strive to be loving and compassionate in the choices we make in your stead each month.

One Great Hour of Sharing is the special collection we will take in March. You will see an insert and offering envelope included in your bulletin for your participation in the church's wider mission. It channels resources for both international and domestic disaster response, provides programs in health, agricultural development and so much more. Be generous...help, hope and life for those caught between a rock and a hard place are at risk without us.

The fundraiser at Fiesta Jalapeños in January raised \$136.70 toward the restoration of the back entrance of the church. Thank you for making this a successful event.

There are a lot of activities taking place in March but don't forget to start putting aside your used "treasures" for the upcoming rummage sale in May. More information coming in the near future.

Information on Tetelestai will be available soon. If you have never attended one of their productions, you must plan ahead as a "Lenten must see". The theatrical cast consists of over 100 members putting on the story of the passion of Christ at a church in our general vicinity. The cost is by donation; the host church provides the building, welcomers, guides and refreshments. Look for flyers soon.

We are asking for additional names of men and women serving in our military to add to the list of those who are receiving Boxes from

Home no matter where they are serving. Please contact Skip or Linda Spayd (listed in our church directory) with information.

Food for thought: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6

Deacons' Desk – Karen Dreger

When I was thinking about what to write, I thought about the church's 200th anniversary coming up in 2022. Two hundred years is a long time! So many people, families and



ministers make up our history, each with their own story. My parents were married in this church in 1946 as well as Roy and I in 1970. My five brothers

and sisters and I were raised going to this church. My aunt was organist for a while. I remember her taking me up to the balcony when I was young and how amazed I was to see the organ pipes. I had aunts, uncles, grandparents and cousins attending this church during my childhood.

I'm planning to write my church story for the 200th anniversary. It is my hope that all of us will write their story, no matter how short it may be, so future generations will know who we were. We could put all the stories in a book for the 200th anniversary. Everyone's story is important, even the children could write their story. Think about being on the committee to plan our anniversary, we need lots of ideas!

Trustees' Turn – Pete Veliconia

Lately there has been a string of members who don't seem to be happy about how things happen around the church, and there seems to be a lack of communication when it comes to letting others know if there is a problem. I and all the Trustees want to be told if and when there are problems, but we need to know exactly what the problems are, and preferably on paper and by showing us exactly what the issues are. The days of

miscommunication have to stop as this will cause delays, more expenses and hurt feelings. Just tell us and show us what is wrong and, as always, we will do our best to get things done. It is hard enough to get things done in the best of times, and these issues delay things from getting done.

We are still hopeful of starting the back entrance project as soon as the weather breaks- the perfect time is right after the Swiss Steak dinner or soon afterward. We are still working to make this the best that we can do with the budget that we have. Thanks to all who have helped. There are a lot of moving pieces when you have a project such as this and we hope to make this as smooth and painless as possible.

Parish Nurse's Notes –Karen Dreger

March is Colorectal Awareness Month. Colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer in the United States, and is most common in people age 50 and older. The good news? If everyone age 50 and older got regular screenings, 6 out of 10 deaths from colorectal cancer could be prevented.

Who's at risk for colorectal cancer? Some factors that increase your risk of developing colorectal cancer are unavoidable, such as:

- a prior history of colon polyps,
- a prior history of bowel diseases,
- a family history of colon cancer,
- having a genetic syndrome, such as familial adenomatosa polyposis (FAP), or
- being of Eastern European Jewish or African descent.

Other risk factors are avoidable. This means you can change them to decrease your risk of developing colorectal cancer. These risk factors include:

- being overweight or obese,
- smoking,
- heavy drinking of alcohol,
- having type 2 diabetes,
- having a sedentary lifestyle, or
- consuming a diet high in processed foods or red meat.

Colorectal cancer may not present any symptoms. Some symptoms during early stages include:

- constipation,
- diarrhea,
- changes in stool color,
- changes in stool shape,
- blood in stool,
- bleeding from rectum,
- excessive gas,
- abdominal cramps, and
- abdominal pain.

Late stage symptoms may include:

- excessive fatigue,
- unexplained weakness,
- unintentional weight loss,
- changes in stool, or
- vomiting.

An early diagnosis of colorectal cancer gives you the best chance of curing it. Your doctor will start by getting your medical and family history. A physical exam will be performed. Though there is no blood test that specifically checks for colorectal cancer, liver function tests and complete blood count tests can rule out other diseases and disorders. A colonoscopy allows your doctor to see inside your colon and rectum to check for anything unusual. During a colonoscopy your doctor can also remove tissue from abnormal areas. These tissue samples can then be sent to a laboratory for analysis. Your doctor may order an X-ray or CT scan for a more detailed image of your colon.

Colorectal cancer diagnosis can be frightening, but the fact is that this type of cancer is extremely treatable, especially when caught early. Treatment measures have also come a long way for more advanced cases of colon cancer. For more information you can check healthline.com or healthfinder.gov.



Thank you, church members and friends, for being faithful stewards when asked to assist or bring food when we have a funeral, special reception or hospitality meal. You are so appreciated!! God loves a cheerful give...we do too!



Do you sing in the shower? Do you sing along with the radio when you are in your car? If so, then how about joining the choir and passing on the gift of your talents. For more information see Kerry Davis or any of the choir members, or just show up Wednesday evening at 6:30!



Dear church family,
 I can't thank you all enough for your prayers and love during this most difficult time. Pastor Arik's visits with Rich meant the world to us. The memorial service was beautiful and the luncheon was just the perfect way to finish the wonderful tribute to Rich. I sincerely appreciate each and every one of you who helped make such a hard time a little bit more bearable. You truly are not just my church, but my family. I love you all!
 Jennie Vulcan

Women's Book Club

We will be meeting at the church on March 18 at 7 pm to discuss Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate. All women are welcome!

Ushers & Greeters

March	
3	Krista O'Neill, Nancy Findlay, Pete Veliconia
10	Millie Gilly, Linda Matis, Lynne Petroff
17	Tess Anderson, Vonnie Packard, Ann Olesen
24	Regenia Comerford, Joe Pesch, Ric Sasse
31	Edie Phillips, Shirley Sunyak, Becky Williams

Acolytes & Junior Deacon

March		
3	Dahlia Wolanski	Abby Anderson
10	Abby Anderson	n/a
17	Beth Dornan	n/a
24	Arden Dlugosz	n/a
31	Will Schupbach	n/a

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

Nursery

March	
3	Ann Olesen
10	Shirley Sunyak
17	Linda Matis
24	Renee Dornan
31	Ann Olesen

- 3/2 Mikey Feigi
- 3/2 Kerry Davis
- 3/2 Nema Saleem
- 3/4 Vonnie Packard
- 3/7 Jane Woravka
- 3/16 Barb Tobin
- 3/21 Allison Borstad
- 3/25 Jamie Schupbach
- 3/25 Dominic Truskot
- 3/27 Jim Yost
- 3/30 Arden Dlugosz
- 3/31 Grayson Pero-Luter



- 3/7 Larry & Karen Mytnick
- 3/11 Joe & Dolores Pesch

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Swiss Steak Dinner prep 6 pm	2 Swiss Steak Dinner prep 10 am SSD 4:30 & 6:00 Yoga 11 am Couples Recovery 6 pm
3 Communion Outreach 9 am Coffee Shop Svc. 9:00 Traditional Svc. 10:30 Bible study noon	4 AA Women 7 pm	5 CE 7 pm Trustees 7 pm AA 1 st Step 8:30 pm	6 Ash Wednesday Soup & Bread Supper 6 pm; Service 7 pm 	7 AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	8	9 Hospice/End of Life seminar 11 am-1 pm Yoga 11 am Couples Recovery 6 pm
10 1st Sunday of Lent Coffee Shop Svc. 9:00 Traditional Svc. 10:30 March birthdays celebration 	11 AA Women 7 pm	12 AA 1 st Step 8:30 pm	13 Choir 6:30 pm 4-H 7 pm	14 AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	15	16 Newsletter articles due Yoga 11 am Couples Recovery 6 pm
17 2nd Sunday of Lent Communion Coffee Shop Svc. 9:00 Traditional Svc. 10:30 	18 Women's Book Club 7 pm AA Women 7 pm	19 AA 1 st Step 8:30 pm	20 Choir 6:30 pm	21 Council 7 pm AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	22 LCAS 6:30 pm	23 SUDS fundraiser at Clague Playhouse 8 pm Yoga 11 am Couples Recovery 6 pm
24 3rd Sunday of Lent Coffee Shop Svc. 9:00 Traditional Svc. 10:30 Deacons 11:30	25 AA Women 7 pm	26 AA 1 st Step 8:30 pm	27 Choir 6:30 pm 4-H 7 pm	28 AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	29 Hospitality with a Heart	30 Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser for Matt Karlovec & Cathleen Trovato 4:30 & 6:30 pm Yoga 11 am Couples Recovery 6 pm
31 4th Sunday of Lent Coffee Shop Svc. 9:00 Traditional Svc. 10:30						



First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

Let's Spring into April and celebrate together!!!

Saturday, April 6th 3-6pm
Bullfrogs Sports Café
33137 Center Ridge Rd, North Ridgeville
\$25/Ticket, \$45/Couple



Ticket includes:
All you can eat Pizza, Rigatoni,
wings
All you can drink Domestic
Draft Beer, Tea, & Pop

Bring some extra cash for
RAFFLE BASKETS AND 50/50

All proceeds will go towards the Organ Repair Fund!!

See Kari Dlugosz for tickets! (440) 670-1357



Set in a laundromat in the 1960's, **SUDS: The Rocking 60's Musical Soap Opera** is a delightful story of a young teenage girl and four guardian angels who come to teach her about finding true love. The show is loaded with good clean fun, bubbling energy and over 50 well-known songs that topped the charts of the 60's.

The Board of Christian Education proudly presents

"A Night at Clague Playhouse"
Saturday, March 23 at 8:00 p.m.

The cost is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children age 10 and under. Ticket cost includes refreshments at intermission.

We have bought out the house so invite your friends, family, co-workers and neighbors!
Appropriate for ages upper elementary through adult.

Make your reservations NOW!

Payment is due at the time of reservation.

Make checks payable to First Congregational Church.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Number of adult tickets: _____ X \$20 = _____

Number of child tickets: _____ X \$10 = _____

Total amount enclosed: _____

Do you need a wheelchair accessible seat? Yes No