

# The Messenger

The monthly newsletter of First Congregational Church UCC of North Ridgeville

**April 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**

April has arrived and with it comes the promise of new life in our world. The seasons have begun to change, and as the world awakens we witness the cycle of life begin again. It is the perfect time of year for us to celebrate Easter; as we look at the cycle of life, death, and life anew, we see this miracle take place in the world around us with our own eyes.

This month we will be taking a closer look at Holy Week by hosting our Lenten Workshop, taking place on April 13 (the Saturday before Palm Sunday). It will be a time for intergenerational learning and growing as we work our way through Holy Week and remember the importance of what will soon come to pass. Then on Palm Sunday we will begin our journey toward Easter morning, following in the footsteps of Christ as he enters through the gates of Jerusalem. Our Member in Discernment, Matthew Hogue-Smith, will be preaching on Palm Sunday, so make sure you show up to offer him your love and support!

On Thursday **April 18 at 7 pm in Fellowship Hall** we will share in a Seder meal and witness the Last Supper come to pass as we celebrate **Maundy Thursday** and hear the story of the betrayal that would ultimately cost Jesus his life. Then on Good Friday we will be joining together with other churches in the community at 5:30 p.m. at the gazebo in South Central Park where we will pick up the cross and walk in solidarity with Jesus during these last few hours of his life.

However, even death could not shackle the power of God's love, and so on Easter morning we celebrate the resurrection of Christ in our world and our lives. We will kick off Easter with a **sunrise service at 8:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall** followed by an Easter potluck breakfast and then our more **traditional service at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary**. It will be an opportunity for us to share in the joy and love that has been born into our world as we celebrate the presence of our risen savior.

As our Lenten journey draws to a close and as we see the cross waiting for us on the horizon, let us remember how we have changed our world through love throughout this Lenten season. Our faith shows us that love is even stronger than death and it is a love we have each been freely given. May we feel the renewal of new life spring forth in our life as we watch the world around us begin to bud and bloom. May we feel God's love awaken in our hearts, and may we find the strength to journey alongside

Jesus until Easter morning. My friends, may we walk in the footsteps of Christ so that we may witness the miracle of the empty tomb.

Blessings and Peace,  
Pastor Arik

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

*A man who was completely innocent, offered himself as a sacrifice for the good of others, including his enemies, and became the ransom of the world. It was a perfect act.* - Mahatma Gandhi

Easter is nearly here. Easter comes around without a lot of the endless activity that surrounds Christmas. There are, of course, Easter baskets, Easter eggs and lots of candy. But the holiday tends toward family and loved ones, more so perhaps than Thanksgiving. Easter speaks to us of sacrifice, resurrection and love.

Mahatma Gandhi was not Christian (although he did for a while contemplate becoming Christian); however, he could see the sacrifice involved in the story of Easter and resurrection. He said that he saw the gentleness of Christ as a beautiful example, and he celebrated the love he could see in the life Christ led.

Rev. Kathy Ketchum, while filling in one Sunday, once said that the UCC was big on grace. I think that is probably true. I don't find that to be problematic. Christ forgave those who were crucifying him while on the cross; that tells me that grace should be a part of our ministry as well.

As we share our faith with the city of North Ridgeville, I hope we show ourselves to be purveyors of grace. As we celebrate God's grace and Christ's sacrifice, I wish all a most Happy Easter!

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

A huge THANK YOU goes out to everyone who supported the CE fundraiser at Clague Playhouse. SUDS was an evening of fun and fellowship and it was a sellout! The proceeds from this event will provide funds for our young adults' attendance at the upcoming Women's Retreat and other CE activities.

Our next event is the **INTER-GENERATIONAL** Lenten Messy Church on Saturday, April 13 from 4-7:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. We will Journey through Holy Week with many hands on activities, egg dyeing, prayer bottles, sharing of dinner and, of course, our Easter Egg Hunt. Please bring at least 1 dozen hard boiled eggs and a dish to share for dinner (NO desserts please). The deadline for signing up outside my office is April 10. NO late registrations will be accepted!!



The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual **Women's Tea** will be held on Sunday, May 5 from 2-4 pm in Fellowship Hall. We will learn about "Chalkology" and make a special item to take home. Tea and yummy desserts will be provided. Bring your own special tea cup if possible. The cost is \$13 for adults and \$10 for young ladies under the age of 12. All family and friends are invited. Registrations are due by May 1. No late registrations can be accepted due to supplies needing to be available. We are asking that attendees bring new kids summer pajamas (any size) and/or summer Velcro shoes (no flip flops or crocs) to support our community outreach project.



Did you know that our youth filled 40 large plastic eggs with candy and purchased 40 large chocolate bunnies for the senior citizen Easter baskets provided by Community Care? Our 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders ROCK!

Finally, I would like to thank the CE Board for providing the funds for me to attend the Ohio Conference's "Learn It/Live It/Share It" workshop in Columbus. This was the first of many conversations the conference is having with pastors and faith formation staff about how we LEARN about the stories of the Bible, how we LIVE it out in our lives, and how we SHARE it in our lives/community. Stay tuned for more on this topic as the conversation evolves.

And to all who provided candy for the Easter Egg Hunt, THANK YOU! Without your support, the hunt would not be possible. Happy Easter!

### **Outreach Committee News – Nancy Franks**

Armed forces men and women serving in the U.S. and foreign countries need to hear from folks back home. It starts with a name, some items they need, a note to thank them and their fellow volunteers for their service. We would appreciate donations of and of the following items to fill the Boxes from Home now being filled: men's small deodorant (stick or liquid, no aerosol), men's razors, gum, snack size bags of crackers, cookies or fish crackers, granola bars, beef jerky in small size packages. Any new names with contact information would be appreciated and a box lovingly packed and shipped out.

Thank you for your gifts of compassion for our One Great Hour of Sharing collection in March. Know your selfless giving has helped to, collectively, serve thousands of people and put their lives back together again. We are the hands of God at work.

New fundraiser!! Outreach is sponsoring a **car wash fundraiser** at Ridgeville Wash Wizzard behind the Marathon gas station at Ridge Plaza and Center Ridge **from April 1 through May 31**. See the flyer later in this newsletter with all the details. Let's clean up in a couple of ways.

Don't forget that One World Shop will be at the church during and after coffee hour on Sunday, April 28. Shop for Mothers' Day gifts!!

We will be making a big Easter basket for our church's special family that we have "adopted" from Community Care. God's blessings, our love and your love will be included!

*A blessed Easter to all of you from all of us!*

"For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, 'Do not fear, I will help you.'" Isaiah 41:13

### **Deacons' Desk – Kathy Pero**

Something is missing from our beautiful church right now. Can you feel it? Our beautiful organ is out for repairs. When we get it back, I wonder what will be the first hymn played on it. I wonder who will play it first. In 10 years we can all say, "I remember when it

was taken out and fixed up like new!" Our church family has pulled together to help cover the costs of the repairs. What a huge commitment, and it says a lot about how much we care about our music ministry. Our wonderful choir and music director will prepare music for Easter Sunday, and our hope is that it will be played on our beautiful organ.

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Come out to Bullfrog's Sports Café in North Ridgeville on Saturday, April 6 for a time of fun, food and fellowship and help us raise money to pay for the additional repairs to the organ! See the flyer later in this newsletter for all the info!

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

Spring is here and now is the time to take care of all the home projects that need to get done. The same can be said at the church. We have completed a couple of projects and a big one is to start soon.

We hired a tree trimming company to trim the branches to around 40' around the parking lot; this will hopefully lessen any chance of limb damage and the "widow makers" falling onto cars and people. This should lighten the trees and lead to longer and a healthier life for our trees.

The second project was a much-needed upgrade in our kitchen. We replaced both faucets and the small hot water tank that feeds the dishwasher. Both faucets have sprayers now and should make food prep and clean up much easier and safer. One doesn't have to put heavy pots into the sink to fill them anymore. I want to thank you for the overwhelmingly positive response on the kitchen project and it is noted that everyone I talked with knew how much all this needed done.

The next big project is the back awning and door replacement which is scheduled to begin in April (depending on weather). This will help with safety and the view that visitors have of us. It should be a 2 week project.

I also want to address those who do so much for the church, those who serve on Boards

giving their blood sweat and tears to the church. They are to be commended. They are all volunteers and I wish that everyone would serve at least once to appreciate the hard work and planning that go into everything that occurs.

**Parish Nurse’s Notes – Karen Dreger**

April is the fourth month of the year in the Gregorian calendar, the fifth in the early Julian calendar. The Romans gave this month the Latin name Aprilis, but the derivation of this name is uncertain. April is commonly associated with spring in parts of the Northern Hemisphere, the season when trees and flowers begin to open. This is a good time of year to think about our spiritual health.

Spiritual health is one of the four dimensions of health along with physical, social, and mental health. Since the inclusion of spiritual health within the World Health Organization's purview, a number of other significant organizations have also attended to spirituality, and incorporated reference to it in key documents, including the United Nations action plan, Agenda 21, which recognizes the right of individuals to "healthy physical, mental and spiritual development".

We are in a period of Lent, a time for reflection and preparation before Easter. Everyone renews or feeds their spirit in different ways. Some may use meditation, prayer, music, attend church, or being in nature. I personally find being with nature is a spiritual experience. Walking in the woods, visiting a garden, or camping help to refresh my spirit. Sometimes seeing nature through the eyes of a child can be healing. My 3 year old grandson recently discovered a ladybug one bright sunny day. He had some questions and paused in his play to watch it awhile. When was the last time you paused to watch a ladybug, a bird, or a sunset at the lake?

Just as a note to inspire you, I found some studies that show the positive effects of religion in our health. For instance, mortality rates are lower among people who frequently attend religious events and consider themselves both religious and spiritual. Religion may reduce the likelihood of certain diseases. Studies

suggest that it guards against cardio-vascular disease by reducing blood pressure and also improves immune system functioning. Church attendance has been found to increase life expectancy. See you in church!



**Women’s Book Club**

The April 15<sup>th</sup> book is Water from my Heart by Charles Martin. The May 20<sup>th</sup> book is Celeste Ng’s Little Fires Everywhere. All book club gatherings are at 7 p.m. at the church unless otherwise noted. All women are welcome!

***Ushers & Greeters***

<b>March</b>	
<b>31</b>	Edie Phillips, Shirley Sunyak, Becky Williams
<b>April</b>	
<b>7</b>	Krista O’Neill, Nancy Findlay, Lynne Petroff
<b>14</b>	Millie Gilly, Pete Veliconia, Ann Olesen
<b>21</b>	Tess Anderson, Vonnie Packard, Linda Matis
<b>28</b>	Regenia Comerford, Joe Pesch, Ric Sasse

***Acolytes & Junior Deacon***

<b>March</b>		
<b>31</b>	Will Schupbach	n/a
<b>April</b>		
<b>7</b>	Mackenzie Pero-Luter	Rhys Kyser
<b>14</b>	Jillian Smoker	n/a
<b>21</b>	Abigail Packard	n/a
<b>28</b>	Claire Wolanski	n/a

***Nursery***

<b>March</b>	
<b>31</b>	Ann Olesen
<b>April</b>	
<b>7</b>	Shirley Sunyak
<b>14</b>	Linda Matis
<b>21</b>	Renee Dornan
<b>28</b>	Ann Olesen

- 4/1 Krista O'Neill
- 4/2 Matthew Hogue-Smith
- 4/4 Tim O'Neill
- 4/15 Catherine Craigs
- 4/15 Tim Anderson
- 4/15 Beckie Schupbach
- 4/15 Heather Smith
- 4/16 John Petroff
- 4/23 Brian Zinsmeister
- 4/27 Abigail Packard
- 4/30 Dolores Pesch
- 4/30 June Yost



- 4/3 Ric & Sallie Sasse
- 4/15 Andy & Shirley Sunyak
- 4/16 Brenda & Craig Schutz
- 4/25 Dave & Mary Ireland
- 4/25 Bob & Linda Matis
- 4/28 Jim & June Yost

*Hello everyone in my church family! Getting settled in my new home. Missing everyone but not the cold and snowy weather. I cannot thank everyone enough for the wonderful send-off party, the cards, memory book and all the well wishes. To those who decorated, made goodies, and set up everything for the party, thank you for giving so much of your time to show love and blessings. Sending my love and heartfelt thanks to everyone.* -Vi Elrod

Vi's new address is 4416 Holly Springs Pkwy. #8203, Holly Springs, GA 30114 and her phone number is 440-915-6010.



**Robert V. "Bob" Schmittgen, "Pops"** age 90, lifelong resident of North Ridgeville, passed away on Saturday, March 23, 2019 at Ames Family Hospice House in Westlake.

A graduated of North Ridgeville High

School, Class of 1946, he then went on to further his education at Baldwin Wallace College. He served his Country in the National Guard for 4 years. He owned and operated Elyria Packaging Company then went on to work as manager of employee relations for York International, Elyria retiring in 1993 after 25 years of service. Bob was member of First Congregational United Church of Christ in North Ridgeville where he was a former Moderator and served on the Deacon and Trustee committees. Bob was instrumental in bringing several important initiatives to his community. He was a founding member and the first President of the North Ridgeville Lions Club in 1962 where he continued to be active for the past 57 years earning a Melvin Jones Fellowship Award. He was past President of the North Ridgeville Civic League and was instrumental in bringing water to Ridgeville Township in 1950. He served on the incorporation committee, forming the City of North Ridgeville in 1961. He served twelve years on the North Ridgeville City School Board, including three terms as President. He was a longtime member and past President of North Ridgeville Arts Council and served as Treasurer of Lorain County Red Cross Board. He also served on the Office for Older Adults Board at the North Ridgeville Senior Center. He was recognized for all his community service in 2012, when he was awarded the Golden Kernel Award by the North Ridgeville Corn Festival Committee. In addition to serving his community he enjoyed traveling extensively, golfing, woodworking and gardening. Memorial contributions are suggested to the First Congregational United Church of Christ or Hospice of the Western Reserve.

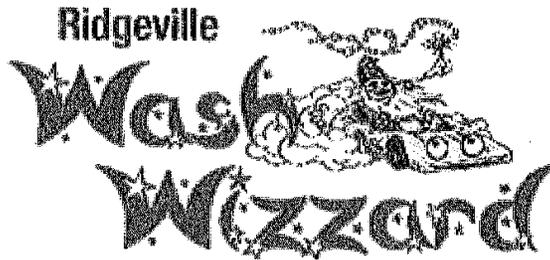
**2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL BENEFIT CONCERT**  
 A Musical Concert featuring local talent will be held on  
**Sunday, May 19**

Donations collected will benefit  
**NORTH RIDGEVILLE COMMUNITY CARE**

Interested in participating? Contact Diana Goode!

# CAR WASH FUNDRAISER

Take your car for a spring cleaning  
and help pay for our pipe organ repairs!



35630 Center Ridge, N. Ridgeville  
(at Ridge Plaza & Center Ridge behind Marathon gas station)

Enter code **36363** when you use the touch free car wash  
and the church will receive  
\$2.00 for every "sparkle & shine" and "spic & span" wash  
and \$3.00 for every "dazzle & dash" wash.

Fundraiser runs from April 1 through May 31.



## Easter Lilies for our Sanctuary

A tribute of lilies to celebrate the  
resurrection of Christ, our Savior.

Please help us decorate the altar for Easter Sunday.  
These beautiful one-stemmed plants will have 3-4 blooms  
each and will be accented in foil wrapped pots.

The cost is \$8.50 per plant. Please include payment  
with your order. Checks should be made payable to First  
Congregational UCC.

**All orders and payments are due by April 14.** You  
may pick up your plants after the Easter Sunday worship  
service or request that we take them to homebound members.

Please order \_\_\_\_\_ Easter lilies  
(quantity)

### Please print clearly

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I will pick up

\_\_\_\_\_ Please take to homebound members



Thank you for continuing to collaborate with us on the St. Pauly Textile clothing drop off shed project. In 2018 roughly 22,418 garments of clothing were donated to your shed. This was enough to clothe an estimated 2,718 people. This clothing is being used right now by people in one or more of 44 different countries (including the US) to which our clothing is likely to have been distributed this past year. **Your organization raised \$1,362.79 in 2018** through hosting this shed. We ask that you continue to spread the word about the clothing shed to other community members. Thank you for all your support!

### St. Pauly Used Clothing Drop-Off Shed To benefit First Congregational Church's monthly community outreach meals

[In 2018 \$1,362.79 was raised through the shed donations and \$1,625.00 was spent on the Hospitality with a Heart meals, providing 84% of the money needed to fund these important free community meals.]

- Items accepted: All clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, pillowcases, drapes and stuffed toys. (Please...no rags, fabric scraps, pillows, toys or household goods.)
- Please put items in tied or closed bags.
  - Shed is located at the back of church parking lot
  - Clothing is sent to people who can use it all over the US and World while helping the environment



First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ

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

Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> 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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 AA Women 7 pm	2 CE 7 pm Trustees 7 pm AA 1 <sup>st</sup> Step 8:30 pm	3 Choir 6:30 pm	4 AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	5	6 Organ repair fundraiser at Bullfrog's 3-6 pm Yoga 11 am Couples Recovery 6 pm
7 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent Outreach 9 am Communion Coffee Shop Svc. 9:00 Traditional Svc. 10:30	8 AA Women 7 pm	9 AA 1 <sup>st</sup> Step 8:30 pm	10 Choir 6:30 pm 4-H 7 pm	11 AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	12	13 Lenten workshop & Easter egg hunt 4-7:30 pm Yoga 11 am Couples Recovery 6 pm
14 Palm Sunday Coffee Shop Svc. 9:00 Traditional Svc. 10:30 April birthdays' celebration 	15 Women's Book Club 7 pm AA Women 7 pm	16 Newsletter articles due AA 1 <sup>st</sup> Step 8:30 pm	17 Choir 6:30 pm	18 Maundy Thursday Seder meal & service 7 pm in Fellowship Hall AA Women 6 pm (up) Al-Anon 8 pm (up)	19 Good Friday OFFICE CLOSED Cross walk 5:30 pm at South Central Park Gazebo 	20 Yoga 11 am Couples Recovery 6 pm
21 Easter Sunrise svc. 8 am  Easter breakfast Traditional svc. 10 am	22 AA Women 7 pm	23 AA 1 <sup>st</sup> Step 8:30 pm	24 Choir 6:30 pm 4-H 7 pm	25 Council 7 pm AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	26 Hospitality with a Heart Youth lock in (tentative) LCAS 6:30 pm	27 Yoga 11 am Couples Recovery 6 pm
28 Coffee Shop Svc. 9:00 Traditional Svc. 10:30 Deacons 11:30 am One World Shop 11:30- 1:00	29 AA Women 7 pm	30 AA 1 <sup>st</sup> Step 8:30 pm				