

The Messenger

The monthly newsletter of First Congregational Church UCC of North Ridgeville

May 2019

Pastor

Rev. Arik Borstad

Director, Christian Education

Mary Karlovec

Music Director

Kerry Davis

Moderator

Roy Dreger

Vice-Moderator

Nancy Franks

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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

Somehow, we have collectively made it to the month of May. Looking behind us, we see the empty tomb of Easter morning, as we look forward to the work that the Risen Christ has called us to do. It is a time and a season of action as we put this faith we profess to work in our communities and world.

That being said, instead of taking a break following our Easter festivities, we are moving forward with reckless abandon as we march ahead into this brand new month. Looking ahead to the future of our church and our world, on May 5 we will be celebrating the Baptism of Henry Schutz into the life of our faith. This baptism will serve as a beautiful reminder of the power that love and new life can bring into our darkened world.

Then, on May 12 we will be shifting our focus to those mother figures we have in our lives as we celebrate Mother's Day. Our Member in Discernment, Matthew, will be preaching on Mother's Day, so this is a wonderful opportunity to show him our support and love as he continues his journey toward ordination in the United Church of Christ. As Matthew prepares to be a pastor in our denomination, he will be taking more of an active role in worship leadership moving ahead so expect him to be preaching once a month in addition to his other responsibilities. For those who have heard Matthew preach and had a chance to get to know him, you already know how much of an asset he will be to our denomination and faith, so let us continue to help him along his journey.

On May 19 at 7 pm in the North Ridgeville Academic Center Community Room we will be joining with other churches in the community to offer a blessing of our graduates as they prepare for the next stage of their journey. I have been asked to preach at this event, so join us as we offer our strength and support to the graduates who prepare to open a new chapter in their life story.

Finally, on May 26 we will be focusing on the importance and power of peace in our lives, community, and world. We are hoping to use this Sunday as an opportunity to renew and rededicate the peace pole that is living on our property. Join us for a time where we pray for peace and justice to be lived and experienced by us all.

My friends, while the tomb has been found empty, we know that the true work of Christ has only just begun. Let us commit ourselves to



“Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime.”

-Martin Luther

spreading the good news of God's love and Christ's mercy to all that we meet as we forge ahead into a beautiful summer.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Arik

Moderator's Moment – Roy Dreger

I have heard May referred to as the "merry month". I presume this is because the weather is warming and it allows us to be outside more. Or, perhaps this is because it is a month full of special days. In May you have, to name just a few: World Turtle Day, World Laughter Day, National Wine Day, National Chocolate Chip Day, and National Biscuit Day. Star Wars Day is May 4th (as in "May the fourth be with you"). There are the family oriented holidays such as National Brother Day and, of course, Mother's Day, which is also a national Holiday. Then there are holidays based on the remembrance of others. Memorial Day probably is the one that first comes to mind, as is fitting. But there are others as well. Military Spouse Appreciation Day is May 10, Armed Forces Day is May 18. Our Jewish brothers and sisters celebrate both their Memorial Day (Yom HaZikaron) on the 8th of May and Israeli Independence Day (Yom HaAtzma'ut) on the 9th. Holocaust Remembrance Day as well as the National Day of Prayer are both celebrated on May 2.

Some holidays are just for fun. Others celebrate a much deeper, more meaningful occasion. On those holidays we should remember the event (or people) that led to that particular celebration.

I hope your May is full of safe celebrations!

Christian Education Corner – Mary Karlovec

With the Lenten season behind us and the Easter season to Pentecost here, I would like to thank everyone who donated supplies for the Easter egg hunt, the many cereal boxes for the Lenten workshop, helped oversee the stations for the Lenten workshop, and a big thanks to Renee Dornan for giving her time to

help set up the event. It was a great way to start Holy Week!

Sunday, May 5 is our second annual **Ladies Tea** from 2-4 pm in Fellowship Hall. Currently, we have very few reservations so



PLEASE get your reservation in by May 1. We have a great program planned and everyone will be going home with their own created project. Reservation forms are in the Messenger or you can call the church office or text

Mary (440-897-8979) with your reservations. Remember this event is open to anyone young or old including friends, relatives and neighbors!

On Sunday, May 19 we will recognize our Sunday School teachers during the 10:30 worship service. Sunday, May 26 is the official end of Sunday School. Summer Sunday School for Preschool – completing 2nd grade will begin on June 16. If you are willing to teach a Sunday or two this summer, please sign up outside Mary's office.

God's Blue Earth - the Sacred Gift of Water is the theme of our intergenerational VBS this summer. Our first session will be Sunday, June 23. We will start with a bagged lunch in Fellowship Hall after worship. First up is water in the creation story. Some of the event will be off site. More information will be in the June newsletter.



Outreach Committee News – Nancy Franks

"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:31

Jesus lives! Alleluia!

Rebirth, Renewal, Restoration of Life

Thank you (in advance) for shopping the fair trade One World Shop on April 28. We all found one-of-a-kind, handmade items priced to suit our pocketbooks and of fine quality. Outreach is pleased to share items from third world artisans with you. Be sure to visit them throughout the year in Rocky River at the One World Shop on Detroit Road.

For One Great Hour of Sharing, one of five special offerings of the UCC, \$381.00 was collected. That you for your generosity at this time of year.

The all church rummage sale is Saturday, May 18 from 9 am to 1 pm. **Bring items for the sale in on Mother's Day and during the week following from 9 am to noon.** On

Friday, May 17 we will be setting up for the sale from 9 am until as long as it takes to finish. If you feel the urge to help out, we're happy to have some extra hands on Friday and Saturday. Lunch

will be served on Friday for all helping out. Let's make this a great fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity. We need all the help we can get to make this a success!!

Interested in being a member of our committee?? Well, helping at the rummage sale is a good way to get to know who we are and what we're about. We meet the first Sunday of every month in the Sunday school classroom area at 9 a.m. We're a friendly group that would enjoy having you working with us. Come, join us!

'I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world!' John 16:33

Deacons' Desk – Karen Veliconia

Busy, busy, busy! It seems like everyone has been moving at top speed just trying to keep up with all the activities in their lives. At our house, we keep a master calendar of all the activities, events, work schedules, and appointments so we can coordinate and not miss anything. Life at church is not any different! We've had lots of activities, holiday events, fundraisers, and church services with plenty more on the horizon.

As we move into the warmer spring weather (hopefully!), let's all try to remember to slow down a little bit every once in a while. Stop and soak in a little bit of sunshine. Pause a minute to breathe in some fresh air filled with the scent of the newly blossoming spring flowers. Take some time to enjoy the sight of

the daffodils popping up out of the ground and the birds and rabbits playing in the yard.

It doesn't take much time out of your schedule to just enjoy some of the beauty that surrounds us after that long, cold, nasty winter. Then you can go back to whatever was keeping you so busy, but with a little bit of happiness added to your day! Happy Spring and many blessings!



Bullfrog's Update: Lots of fun was had by all who attended the fundraiser at Bullfrog's Sports Café on April 6. Approximately 70 people were there and we raised \$1,403.00 toward the organ repairs. Baskets were raffled off and there was a 50/50 raffle as well. ***Thank you*** to Kari Dlugosz and her family for all of their hard work!!

Trustees' Turn – Pete Veliconia

As I write this there is a project that is in full swing – the back awning/door project is being worked on. This has been a thorn for a while and it is finally getting done. There has been a lot of discussion and a few renditions of how to do this (what style, what materials, etc.) but it is happening. We hope to have this completed in a three week time frame but that is a best case scenario.

We are looking for anyone who can help us with another project. We are looking to strip the many layers of paint from the front doors and hopefully we will be able to stain the doors. We want to see what we are working with as there are many layers of paint and maybe lots of wood filler. We also want to clean up all the hardware to ensure a welcoming entrance to our church. There continue to be lots of things that need repair and improvement and it is a constant battle to try to keep up; but rest assured, we are trying.

Women's Book Club

The May 20th 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!

A Message from Matt and Cathleen:

THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts for your support of the Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser. With your support we raised over \$6,500! This money will be used to add a wheelchair ramp in the garage, floating shower doors, special blinds on some windows

and special pull handles on all cupboards. We would not have been able to do this without YOU!



Address Book: A new, updated address book of members and friends of First Congregational Church is now available. If you did not receive one, contact the church office. Please contact the office with any corrections, changes and/or additions.

- 5/1 Shirley Sunyak
- 5/5 Megan O'Neill
- 5/9 Maynard Ickes
- 5/13 Chris Dlugosz
- 5/15 Regenia Comerford
- 5/15 Kate Harrold
- 5/18 Charlotte Katonka
- 5/21 Bob Olesen
- 5/26 Dean Lipperman
- 5/30 Sue Mays
- 5/31 Sallie Sasse

- 5/3 Cliff & Anne Schreiber
- 5/15 Jack & Betty Fitts
- 5/29 Dave & Peggy Poe



Ushers & Greeters

April	
28	Joe Pesch, Ric Sasse
May	
5	Edie Phillips, Linda Matis, Becky Williams
12	Millie Gilly, Shirley Sunyak, Pete Veliconia
19	Krista O'Neill, Nancy Findlay, Lynne Petroff
26	Tess Anderson, Vonnie Packard, Joe Pesch

Acolytes

April	
28	Claire Wolanski
May	
5	Beth Dornan
12	Ben Dornan
19	Rhys Kyser
26	Lexi Webb

Nursery

April	
28	Ann Olesen
May	
5	Shirley Sunyak
12	Linda Matis
19	Renee Dornan
26	Ann Olesen

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.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Choir 6:30 pm	2 AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	3	4 Yoga 11 am Couples Recovery 6 pm
5 Communion Outreach 9 am Coffee Shop Svc. 9:00 Traditional Svc. 10:30 Ladies' Tea 2 pm	6 AA Women 7 pm	7 CE 7 pm Trustees 7 pm AA 1 st Step 8:30 pm	8 Choir 6:30 pm 4-H 7 pm	9 AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	10	11 Yoga 11 am Couples Recovery 6 pm
12 Mother's Day Coffee Shop Svc. 9:00 Traditional Svc. 10:30 May birthdays' celebration	13 AA Women 7 pm	14 AA 1 st Step 8:30 pm	15 Choir 6:30 pm	16 Council 7 pm Newsletter articles due	17 Rummage sale set up 9-?	18 Rummage Sale 9 am – 1 pm Yoga 11 am Couples Recovery 6 pm
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">Rummage sale drop off during office hours 9 am to noon</div>						
19 Communion Coffee Shop Svc. 9:00 Traditional Svc. 10:30 Benefit concert for Community Care	20 Women's Book Club 7 pm AA Women 7 pm	21 AA 1 st Step 8:30 pm	22 Choir 6:30 pm 4-H 7 pm	23 AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	24 LCAS 6:30 pm	25 Yoga 11 am Couples Recovery 6 pm
26 Coffee Shop Svc. 9:00 Traditional Svc. 10:30 Deacons 11:30 am	27 Memorial Day OFFICE CLOSED AA Women 7 pm	28 AA 1 st Step 8:30 pm	29	30 AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	31 Hospitality with a Heart	

Peace Pole Rededication – Sunday, May 26



The History of the Peace Pole Project

The Peace Pole Project was started by the World Peace Prayer Society, a non-profit, member-support, non-sectarian organization dedicated to uniting people across the globe through the universal prayer “May Peace Prevail on Earth”. Founded in Japan in 1955 by Masahisa Goi, the Society has its world headquarters in New York, and is recognized as a Non-Governmental Organization associated with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations.

Peace Pole Data

Peace Poles around the world: over 200,000

Counties with Peace Poles: over 180

Some world leaders who have dedicated Peace Poles:

Political: US President Jimmy Carter, many governors

Spiritual: Pope John Paul II, Mother Teresa, XXIV Dalai Lama

Social: John Denver, Marcel Marceau, Ken Keyes

Extraordinary Places:

Magnetic North Pole, Canada

Confucius Burial Site, Taiwan

Pyramids of El Giza, Egypt

Gorky Park, Russia

Findhorn Foundation, Scotland

Robben Island, South Africa

Atomic Bomb Dome, Hiroshima

Jordan River, Israel



Join us for a Ladies Day Tea!

Sunday, May 5, 2019

2-4 PM in Fellowship Hall

Our tea is open to ladies young and old!

Ask you sisters, relatives and neighbors to join us!

Cost: \$13.00 for ages over 12

\$10.00 for children 12 and under

*We are doing an outreach project for Blessings House
in conjunction with our tea.*

*We are collecting toddler through XL youth **NEW PJ'S**
and Size 1 & up children and size 2 & up youth **summer shoes!***

No flip flops or crocs please!

RSVP by May 1st with reservation form and \$\$\$

Name: _____

of adults: _____ # of children 12 and under _____

Total amount paid: _____
