

The Messenger

The monthly newsletter of First Congregational Church UCC of North Ridgeville

June 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

Summer has arrived and with it brings a slew of changes taking place here at First Congregational. I have often thought of summer as the perfect time to mix things up, even going back to my days in school. Summer was the time when there were new adventures to undertake and new things to discover and explore. In the same way you will notice some changes taking place in our congregation, as a way of encouraging us to engage with our world in new and exciting ways.

First and foremost, starting this month, we will be going back to our summer service schedule, which includes a single service on Sunday morning at 10:00 am. It will be a blend of our traditional service and our coffee shop service, as we will still hold on to the comfort and familiarity of our liturgy and rituals but in a more casual and relaxed atmosphere. As before, coffee hour will follow the worship service in our Fellowship Hall.

You will also notice that the sanctuary will look a bit different during the summer months. The front pews will be removed and replaced with tables for our children so they will have a space up front of their own during the worship service. This is an idea modeled after the "messy church" idea in Christian Education which keeps kids in worship and involved, even as they work on their packets and books during the service. Even if we don't think the kids are listening or paying attention, it is amazing how much they really do absorb what we say and what we do.

Starting this summer we are also changing the way we are doing online giving for our congregation. Moving away from PayPal (which we have had troubles with before), we are going with a new service that also includes a new custom church app for your smartphones, tablets/iPads, and computers. The online giving solution will allow for single donations as well as recurring donations, in addition to accepting online checks, debit and credit cards. You will find the donation button on our website, or you can go to <https://pushpay.com/pay/fccalive> to give directly.

The custom app will be something we will explain in more detail as it finishes development. There are some things worth getting excited about, however. First, you can give directly from your phone. You can also access the past worship service videos from your phone, as well as watching the service streamed live from the app. You will also be able to listen to the



podcast that we release weekly, which has a 5-10 minute reflection to help center us in the midst of our week. Our calendar will be fully integrated with the app, so checking upcoming events will be a breeze. There will also be a place to submit prayer requests, so no matter where you are or what you are doing, if you need some special prayers, you can know you are getting them. Finally, one of the most exciting features are the push notifications. Once you install the app, you will have the option of selecting groups that interest you, such as "Youth Group," "Children's Programming," "Outreach," "Trustees," or "Worship," among many others. When an event happens, such as an upcoming trip for the youth group, a push notification will be sent out to all those who selected interest in that group and you will be notified of the upcoming event or reminder.

All in all, it is a very exciting time to be part of this congregation. We have done well in fostering a sense of openness and love with one another and now we are poised to take the next steps into growing into the future. As always, with any change there will be things that need to be worked out, but I ask for your patience and trust as we move forward as a congregation.

As I leave for London in the first couple of weeks this month, it is my hope that when we see each other once more (on Father's Day), we will all be refreshed and ready for what new possibilities this summer will hold.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Arik

Moderator's Moment – Roy Dreger

June is the month for students and teachers to take a break, the unofficial start of summer and the beginning of many trips and vacations. The month we (hopefully) forget the dreary chilly days that marked our recent spring. It also is the month of Father's Day.

My father was born in 1913 which means he was born only ten years after the first powered flight by the Wright brothers. He lived through two world wars and fought in one of them. He was a teenager during the last part of

the "Roaring Twenties" and the first part of the Great Depression. He started a family when he was in his late thirties. He passed away in 1979.

I didn't have those experiences or any of the others he had. I grew up during the Fabulous Fifties and was a teenager during the 60s - think Woodstock and the "summer of love". For the first ten years of my life I lived in the suburbs, my dad grew up on a farm. Dad was part of a large family while I have one sister and one brother. And yet, there are similarities. We both like music and we both have been in choirs. Both of us like Big Band music. We both enjoy being outside and working with our hands. We both were not afraid to try to fix almost anything (and we succeeded more times than we probably should have out of sheer stubbornness). We loved each other and had difficulty expressing it.

To everyone, I wish you a great Father's Day. And if you still live at home, buy your dad something nice...with his money, of course.



Christian Education Corner – Mary Karlovec

With the start of June comes summer programming for Christian Education. The first Sunday of the month will continue to be "ALL Family Sundays." Children kindergarten and above will be in worship for the entire service. Our preschoolers will have the opportunity to go to the playroom after the Children's Time. If it is not the first Sunday of the month, the preschoolers will go to the playroom after Children's Time and those in **Kindergarten through completion of Second grade** will have **Summer Sunday School**. Our theme this year is **Super Heroes!** I am in need of a leader and a helper for each of these Sundays. The lesson will be available to you the week before with all supplies ready for that Sunday. All I need are people to teach the lesson. Please sign up outside Mary's office if you are willing to commit to one or two Sundays this summer.

Our **Summer Intergenerational VBS programming** will be based on **"God's Blue Earth - Celebrating the Sacred Gift of Water."**

We will be meeting on three Sundays throughout the summer beginning on **June 23** following the 10 am worship service. The other two dates are **July 21 and August 18.**



On **June 23** our theme will be **"Water in the Creation Story."** Throughout this theme we will explore and gain a greater appreciation for how water is the origin of and vital to all life on earth. Bring a packed lunch to eat during coffee hour and wear clothes appropriate for exploring water outside. Weather permitting, part of the session will be off site at Lake Erie. We plan on being finished by 3 pm.

Our second session on **July 21** is themed **"Jesus Stills the Waves."** We will explore different characteristics of water and learn about the different bodies of water on Earth. This session will be entirely on church property. Again, bring a lunch to eat after worship and don't forget to bring a bathing suit and towel because we will be having fun in the waves!

Our final session on **August 18** will center on **"Gathering at the Community Well."** Hopefully we will be off site for this event. More info will be in next month's Messenger. A sign-up sheet for each session is outside my office. For all three sessions, we will be taking a free-will offering to help defray the cost of supplies and snacks.

Finally, to ALL women in the church: If you have not received the Women's Retreat brochure for our event the weekend of November 1-3 at Punderson State Park, there are copies in the Narthex and outside Mary's office. Deposits and reservations are needed by July 1 so we have an idea of the number of rooms we need to hold at Punderson. For young adults under the age of 35, a \$25 scholarship is given to help defray the cost for you. Our theme this year is "Joy!" Please consider joining us for this fun-filled weekend! If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask!

joy

Outreach Committee News – Nancy Franks

June is here and summer follows along with Father's Day. Blessings to all our dads and thank you for being the family support in so many ways.

This month is the Strengthen the Church special collection. This monetary mission supports new building construction for churches, whether it's a new wing, additional outdoor worship areas, fellowship halls, and/or a new church building. It also supports new fellowships that will eventually become congregations that need new buildings to house their worship needs. The last collection day will be Sunday, June 23. Please be generous.

We just had our annual fundraiser sale to benefit Habitat for Humanity. This wonderful Lorain County enterprise works with low-income families trying to get a home with monetary support, able-bodied home builders and the purchaser's sweat equity, and a percentage of the down payment. In a four-hour period we were able to raise \$535.00. We talked to great folks who came by, made some money for the cause, and had a good time. Habitat also took furniture and big appliances to sell at their ReStore outlet here in Lorain County. Another gal and her crew picked up the rest of the items to be distributed to homeless and very low-income families for their use. A win-win for all involved! Thank you to everyone who helped.



The car wash fundraiser continues through the month of June. That's at the Ridgeville Wash Wizzard located at 35630 Center Ridge Road, behind the Marathon gas station at Ridge Plaza. Use code 36363 for the touch free wash. Donation return will go directly to the pipe organ fund.

Military names would be appreciated. Contact Linda and Skip Spayd with the information. Support our troops. Thank you.

Food for thought:

We who are strong must be considerate of those who are sensitive about things like this. We must not just please ourselves. We should help others do what is right and build them up in the Lord. For even Christ didn't live to please himself. Romans 15:1-3

Deacons' Desk – Keith Schoonover

Hello everyone! Don't look now, but it's the beginning of June!! Feels like warm weather was never coming to see us. But in true northeast Ohio form we get all four seasons in one month—especially rain! Makes for cutting the grass in the mud no fun.

Looking ahead...2022 is First Congregational Church's 200th anniversary! We have a committee already forming to plan the event but we are still looking for a few more volunteers. We are trying to have everything in place by early 2021. If you are interested in helping to plan the festivities, contact the church office.

We are still working to raise approx. \$8,200 to finish the refurbishing of our pipe organ. Once the process was started there were more internal repairs needed once the organ was dismantled. So let's all try to do what we can to keep the wonderful sound of the organ filling our church. I myself know I miss it greatly!

In conclusion, we have a lot of projects in the works but I believe our congregation will pull together to get these tasks accomplished.

Have a safe and healthy summer!!

Trustees' Turn – Pete Veliconia

I want to thank everyone for their patience regarding the back entrance project. We ran into a couple of snags and it is being worked on. First, no one knew about the concrete slab that was under the awning. We had to redesign the new awning and will be as nice as possible. Second, the weather this spring has really thrown a wrench into everything and hopefully our crew can make up for lost time. The concrete steps have been reinforced but the railings are off so please do not use the steps until further notice.

We are trying to keep an eye on the basement water issues. Roy Dreger and our custodian Bruce are trying to keep the downspouts clear but it is causing water to pool in the storage rooms. We are trying to seek a permanent solution to this.

Also, the front doors will soon be stripped and stained if possible, but at least repainted.

We do not know what we will be able to do until we strip the doors. We will be trying to do this project ourselves so we can keep the costs to a minimum.

The Center Ridge project will be a major inconvenience for the next year or two. Please be careful entering or exiting the church. We know it is not ideal, but it is what it is.

Parish Nurse Notes – Karen Dreger

CBS news recently reported on Victor Vescovo, who traveled solo seven miles down to the deepest part of the Pacific Ocean, The Mariana Trench. During his four hour excursion he spotted new sea creatures, as well as a plastic bag and candy wrappers. The news has recently reported on plastics and the serious problems they cause when we discard them. Many UCC churches are working to address some of these issues. I want to touch on just one small environmental problem that I think our church could tackle: Styrofoam.

Styrofoam has become such an accepted everyday product that people rarely stop to realize that it is made from polystyrene, a petroleum-based plastic. Over the years information about the harmful effects of Styrofoam on people's health and the environment have been accumulating.

The production, use and disposal of Styrofoam cause adverse environmental and health effects. It is an occupational health hazard to those who are exposed regularly in the manufacture of products made with styrene. Air pollution due to proximity to industries that make Styrofoam is another way we get exposed to styrene. Its industry ranks as the fifth largest creator of toxic waste in the US. It's a "principle litter", meaning it is everywhere. Styrofoam does not break down. It is not biodegradable. It compromises 30% of the total volume in landfills due to its excessive use in packaging. Americans throw away around 25 billion Styrofoam cups every year.

Food in Styrofoam containers can be contaminated by chemicals that leach into the food, affecting human health and the reproductive systems. Especially when paired

with liquid and heat, Styrofoam container's toxins (like benzene and styrene) seep into the contents. Given the porous nature of Styrofoam it absorbs many other carcinogenic pollutants in the environment. Some of it enters the food chain and can harm the people that eat the contaminated food.

Imagine how much of an impact we could make if we all did not use Styrofoam products for one day? one week? one month? If you want to make eco-friendly choices to eliminate Styrofoam, look for products manufactured from renewable resources, those containing biodegradable materials and those easily recycled. You could take a reusable cup to work or church. Please encourage family, co-workers, and church members to participate in taking this positive step.

It is my hope that we, as a church of the UCC, will choose not to use Styrofoam for the well-being of us, our children and our world. Did you know that UCC ministries played a leading role in giving birth to the environmental justice movement of the 1980s; that the UCC is building a powerful environmental network that stays connected through a blog and an e-newsletter, The Pollinator; that UCC churches are deepening and expanding their commitment to the environment by becoming Creation Justice Churches? Whether it is taking on climate change or addressing lead poisoning of children, environmental justice ministries could not have a higher purpose or calling than we do now. For more information go to UCC.org or read The Pollinator.

Safe Sanctuary: Volunteers are needed for the Safe Sanctuary Committee. The purpose of the Safe Sanctuary Committee is to provide a safe and healthy environment in our church building and on our grounds and to uphold the Safe Church Policy Prohibiting Abuse, Exploitation and Harassment. If you are interested or need more info, please contact Pastor Arik.

Women's Book Club

June 17: Island Girls by Nancy Thayer
 July 15: The Last Runaway by Tracy Chevalier (Krista's patio)

Hymn Suggestions: We are having a hymn sing in July and would like your hymn suggestions. There is a box in the sanctuary to write down the name of your favorite hymn(s) for consideration, or contact the church office.

Ushers & Greeters

June	
2	Ric Sasse, Edie Phillips, Nancy Long
9	Shirley Sunyak, Becky Williams, Krista O'Neill
16	Nancy Findlay, Lynne Petroff, Millie Gilly
23	Linda Matis, Pete Veliconia, Tess Anderson
30	Vonnie Packard, Ann Olesen, Regenia Comerford

Acolytes

June	
2	Dahlia Wolanski
9	Abby Anderson
16	Cady Kyser
23	Will Schupbach
30	Mackenzie Pero-Luter

Nursery

June	
2	Shirley Sunyak
9	Linda Matis
16	Renee Dornan
23	Ann Olesen
30	Shirley Sunyak

- 6/3 Madeleine Packard
- 6/5 Lynne Petroff
Stephanie Matis
- 6/9 Millie Gilly
- 6/15 Liz Wolanski
- 6/16 Barb Zinsmeister
- 6/17 Ben Dornan
- 6/19 Carol Scharmann
- 6/21 Beth Malinich
- 6/29 Charlotte Dornan
- 6/29 Jillian Smoker



- 6/2 Dale & Becky Williams
- 6/20 Tim & Beth Malinich
- 6/21 John & Lynne Petroff
- 6/23 Fred & Carol Scharmann
- 6/26 Evan & Kate Harrold
- 6/27 Roy & Karen Dreger

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Pride in the CLE march - meet at church at 9 am Yoga 11 am Couples Recovery 6 pm
2 Communion Outreach 9 am Worship service 10 am Coffee hour 11 am Hall rented 12-5 pm (McKee)	3 Pastor Arik on vacation 6/3-6/15 AA Women 7 pm	4 CE 7 pm Trustees 7 pm AA 1 st Step 8:30 pm	5	6 AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	7	8 Spring clean-up 9 am Couples Recovery 6 pm
9 Pentecost Worship service 10 am Coffee hour 11 am June birthdays' celebration	10 AA Women 7 pm	11 AA 1 st Step 8:30 pm	12 4-H 7 pm	13 AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	14	15 Yoga 11 am Couples Recovery 6 pm
16 Father's Day Communion Worship service 10 am Coffee hour 11 am Newsletter articles due	17 Women's Book Club 7 pm AA Women 7 pm	18 AA 1 st Step 8:30 pm	19	20 Council 7 pm AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	21	22 Yoga 11 am Couples Recovery 6 pm
23 Worship service 10 am Coffee hour 11 am Vacation Bible School	24 AA Women 7 pm	25 AA 1 st Step 8:30 pm	26 4-H 7 pm	27 AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	28 Hospitality with a Heart LCAS 6:30 pm	29 Yoga 11 am Couples Recovery 6 pm
30 Worship service 10 am Coffee hour 11 am Deacons 11 am Hall rented 1-5 pm (Veliconia)						



Meet the Dornans

Renee, Charlotte, Cate, Matt, Kurt, Ben (left to right)

Ben is 10 years old – soon to be 11 (6/17). He enjoys sports (especially baseball), ROBLOX, announcing/commentating on sports games, playing outside and playing games.

Charlotte is 7 years old – soon to be 8 (6/29). She enjoys playing outside, sleepovers with her cousins, playing soccer, doing gymnastics and watching movies.

Cate & Matt are 4 years old (4/18). Matt enjoys riding his scooter, playing on his iPad, playing outside and saying “no!” Cate enjoys coloring, painting, playing with Barbies, snuggling and watching movies.

Kurt is a family physician and **Renee** is chef, taxi driver, counselor, tutor, laundromat, and stay-at-home mom.

Best thing about First Congregational Church: “There is a true sense of belonging and home here. There is a warmth that comes from the congregation and Pastor Arik. We felt this was our church home from our first visit.”



2019 Women's Retreat Registration Form



NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

ROOM PREFERENCE

_____ Room for 4 (\$170 per person)

_____ Room for 3 (\$190 per person)

_____ Room for 2 (\$210 per person)

_____ Room for 1 (\$300 per person)

ROOMMATE PREFERENCE

Return this registration with a \$50 deposit before July 1, 2019.

For our young adults age 16-35, \$25 will be deducted from your balance before you make your final payment.

Balance due by September 30, 2019.

Please make checks payable to First Congregational UCC.

Return registration form to:

First Congregational UCC, 36363 Center Ridge
N. Ridgeville, OH 44039