

# The Messenger

The monthly newsletter of First Congregational Church UCC of North Ridgeville

**August 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**

The question of "who are we?" is one that has been debated and considered by philosophers and theologians since the beginning of time. From Descartes' cogito argument, "I think, therefore I am" to the Aristotle claiming that "the whole is greater than the sum of its parts," we have been actively seeking an answer that satisfies this innate desire to know exactly who it is that we are.

It is a task we have been charged with as a faith community, as well. Knowing who we are helps us to appreciate the past and how we have come to be, and it prepares us as we make our way forward in an uncertain future. That is why we, here at First Congregational, are rounding out our summer focused on this question of our identity. To help us engage in this question, we are doing several activities as a faith community to help us consider exactly who it is that we are. For those who have turned in their answers to the questions from this past month, you will find the responses printed and posted in the back of the sanctuary. I invite you to take time to look over some of these answers, as I am sure you will find some of them as surprising as I have. If you have not turned in your survey questions, you still have an opportunity to do so as the response box will remain in the sanctuary for the rest of this month.

Additionally, we have added an image exhibit in our Fellowship Hall that is filled with different pictures and images that try to answer this question of "Who are we?" These photos are just some of the different answers to this question and you are invited to submit your own photos to the display as we consider our past, our present, and our future. If you have photos you want to submit, whether of you or of an image that you feel represents this faith family, you can submit them online to us at [pastor@fccalive.org](mailto:pastor@fccalive.org) or submit the actual photo in the place provided below the images. There will also be a space provided to pick up your photos next to the submission folder once they have been scanned and uploaded to our digital archive.

Finally, to help us consider the question of "Who are we?" we will be taking a special trip on August 25 to Fields United Methodist Church for an old fashioned Tent Revival that is taking place at 11 am. We will still gather to worship at 10 am here at First Congregational, but the service will be very short and we will take some of that time to talk about the history and



importance of tent revivals in Christianity. Then, at around 10:30 we will depart from the church and head over to Fields to hear Bishop Tracy Malone lead us in the Tent Revival. For those who have never experienced a Tent Revival before, this is an incredible opportunity to hear an amazing progressive preacher as we get a glimpse of what church was like in the early American faith.

As we move forward toward the fall, it is my hope that we all consider this question that remains at the forefront of our minds as a congregation. The question of "Who are we?" impacts not only our present, but drastically shapes the future as well. As we consider where we have come from and where God is leading us next, let us commit ourselves toward answering this question in a faithful and honest way.

Blessings and Peace,  
Pastor Arik

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

Just thought I would mention that the "dog days" of August are here. The reason they have that name stems from the Romans who called the hottest, most humid days of summer "dog days." They associated the hottest days of summer with the star Sirius, known as the "Dog Star", the brightest star in the constellation Canis Major (Large Dog in Latin).

The term "dog days" reminds me of the special relationship that seems to be common among pet owners. Occasionally someone mentions their pet or someone else's pet during prayers. The pets mentioned are ill or the owners may be mourning the loss of a pet. I understand the relationship. Pets can feel like part of someone's family after many years of shared activities. These pets are with us through the good times and the bad; they never judge, they always offer their affection (except maybe cats, which seem to view their owners as a sort of servant).

Maybe we can learn something from our pets. Maybe we should try to stand with others and not judge them (or expect them to be subservient to us). I don't know if our pets feel love the way humans do, but whatever they

feel, it certainly might be worth emulating. There are, of course, exceptions; they are, after all is said and done, animals.

Stay cool, and don't forget your pledge during the summer!

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

A few weeks back, Pastor Arik asked each of us to tell our story... our favorite memories of church, when and where we have felt God in our life and most importantly for me, "What does this church mean to you? Why is it special? Why are you here?" Let me start there. I am here because of my parents, my paternal grandparents and my great grandparents. My great grandparents and grandparents came here by boat from England in the early 1900's. They settled in North Ridgeville. This church became their refuge in a country foreign to them. My dad and many aunts and uncles were baptized and confirmed in this church. Likewise, my brothers and sister were born into this church. This church became my second family.

As I grew up, I had many wonderful Sunday School teachers who shared their **time and talents** to help me grow in my faith. Eleanor Wood, Betty Noland and Billie Bier became second moms and role models to me. As I entered junior/senior high, a whole new group of adults continued to support my faith journey. June Yost taught me the meaning of "outreach to others" as an important component of our faith. The Yosts, Grays and Bakers supported our Pilgrim Fellowship Youth Group and mission trips during high school. They gave of their **time and talents**. These role models carried me through my college years and the beginning of my adult life. In 1981, Bob and I were married in this church, surrounded by many of those names mentioned above.

In 1985, pregnant with Matt, I was truly blessed to have my church family. I spent most of the first six months in and out of the hospital. Our minister at the time, Priscilla Shoup, announced one Sunday in church that I needed help. During one of the last hospital stays, a medicine I needed was causing issues and the doctors wanted someone with me 24/7 for the

next four days. By the end of the worship service, all the slots to watch over me were filled! That hospital stay was the turning point for me. I truly believe this congregation's **time** saved Matt and I!

In the mid 1990's someone was needed to oversee the Christian Education programming. As a volunteer, I gave of my **time and talents** to tackle this job. It was important to me that the impact this congregation had on my life be reciprocated. Fast forward to today. So **why am I here?** This church is **HOME**. The last six years have truly been a struggle for my family but your LOVE, SUPPORT and CARING have made it all possible.

So what is my point in sharing all this? We have a wonderful group of children and youth that need to have the **SAME** church experiences that I and the young adults after me were so lucky to have had in this church. When children are baptized in our church, we promise to become part of their family. We promise to be good role models and nurture their faith journey. That means giving of your **TIME AND TALENTS!** This includes volunteering to teach Sunday School, serving on a board or committee, organizing and/or volunteering for events. When we plan intergenerational events, we do this so our adults can use their **time and talents** to be role models and supporters of our children and youth.

Our faith journey is more than sitting in the pews on Sunday morning. It is interacting with everyone who calls this church home. Can you imagine what we could do if we all worked together to make this happen? How can you give your **TIME AND TALENTS** to help? Hint: You can start by volunteering to teach Sunday School and attend planned events!



### Upcoming events

#### **August 18, 10 am - Blessing of the**

**Backpacks Sunday:** Bring your backpack/book bag to be blessed for the new school year.



#### **August 18, 12:30-6 pm - An afternoon at Pier Lon Campground:**

Join us as we wind down the summer and get ready for the fall. Information sheet and sign-up is outside Mary's office. Sign up by August 10.

#### **September 3, 6:30-7:15 pm - Sunday School Teachers Meeting**

**September 8 - Sunday School resumes** during the 10:00 service

#### **September 14-15 - 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>**

**graders overnight at Elmore UCC:** letter to follow

#### **November 1-3 - Women's Retreat at**

**Punderson:** final payment for attendees must be made by September 30



**WANTED: The 3 missing tripods and 1 Kindle from my office. If you borrowed them, please return them! Thanks! ~ Mary**

### Outreach Committee News – Nancy Franks

August is upon us and summer is almost over!! I'm always asking the questions, "Where has the time gone to? and "Have I used it wisely?"

June's special collection was for Strengthen the Church for establishing new worship communities, encouraging newly promoted ministers in the field, renewing and building up congregations in need of special attention to growth, spiritual guidance and community interaction. Our contribution was \$175.00. Thank you all.

Our collection of items for the Community Care summer lunch program continues through August. Please be generous with your donations of individually wrapped cookies, cupcakes, granola bars, crackers and cheese, dipping sticks, fruit, J-ello and pudding cups. This is a community challenge. Other groups provide other parts of the lunch program. Collection boxes are in fellowship hall and the

narthex. Thank you for your ongoing generosity.

Save your blood for our annual blood drive on Sunday, September 15. Say yes when asked to sign up and be counted in on the quest for much needed blood for those in need. Who knows? Someday it may be yourself or a family member requiring this gift of life.

Our special thanks to Michael Rush for speaking to us on June 30 during our worship service. Michael's experiences in Uganda with so many different people and his spiritual call by God to move forward as doors opened in unexpected ways in his life's journey caused many of us to ask ourselves, "What is God preparing me to do with my life?" We thank Michael for his reassurance that God does work in mysterious ways and we should answer the call when inspired to do so. God is with you always and in all circumstances. Have faith in Him.

We are having a dine and donate fundraiser to benefit the organ repair fund on Thursday, September 12 from 7 am to 10 pm at Bakers Square in North Olmsted, when 20% of each paying ticket comes back to our church! Watch for the flyer that must accompany each check. Love those pies!! And don't forget to ask a friend or family to join you. The more, the merrier! Remember, every person paying must have a flyer with their order.

Food for thought:

"A man's mind plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps." Proverbs 6:9

### **Deacons' Desk – Lynne Petroff**

We are thrilled to have recently welcomed Kris and Kurt Dornan to the Board of Deacons. We desperately needed more bodies on our board and they will also help balance out our male/female ratio since Keith Schoonover had been our only male voice. Welcome aboard and thank you for saying "yes"!

Summer half over when I'm writing this. So hard to believe! The deacons are starting to gear up and plan for fall. We are planning our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual benefit concert and art show which will be in honor of Ron Gibson for October 20 at

2:00 pm. Donations will go to Community Care. If you are interested in performing or displaying artwork, please contact Linda Matis through the church office.

We will also be having more fundraisers to pay back the capital improvement fund for money (\$9,100) borrowed to complete the organ repairs and updates. On top of that, an additional \$1500 - \$3000 is needed to pay for regulating the stops. I know our church has had a lot of fundraisers in the last six months or so, but it sure is nice to hear the organ again.

Photo displays of our church families are in the works and more details will be forthcoming soon.

One more thing...We still need volunteers to help organize our 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. Think about joining in. Sign-up sheets are posted at church. Meetings are just getting started so it's not too late to come on board.

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

The Trustees need your help. We need to know if anyone is able to help us clean out the gutters on the church. We can provide the ladders but we need to get someone who is comfortable with heights and is willing to get dirty for a few minutes.

We are also looking for someone who can strip all the paint on the front doors; we want to bring the front doors back to bare wood to see if we can stain the doors back to original wood or to repaint the doors. This would involve either paint stripper or mechanical stripping of the doors. If you know anyone who does this professionally, please let any of the Trustees know.

Thank you to all who help out with any project throughout the year that involves the upkeep of the church. It is a thankless task at times and seems overwhelming but it is greatly appreciated. We are looking to plan the next few projects and want to ensure that the church is ready for the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Let us know if you have ideas of projects throughout the church.

## Parish Nurse's Notes – Karen Dreger

Q: How many licks does it take to finish a single-scoop ice cream cone?

A: 50 licks

I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer. It's a wonderful time of the year when we can enjoy fruits and vegetables in their season. Also it's a good time to be outside and get your exercise. One of the best things you can do for your children is to encourage them to be active every day. You could do a family walk in the evening or take a bike ride (be sure to wear your helmet).

Q: How much milk does it take to make a gallon of ice cream?

A: 12 pounds of milk

Swimming is probably the most popular exercise in the summer. It seems we have so little time to get our swimming in (about 3 months). Be safe, never swim alone, take timeouts, and use sunscreen. Even water resistant sunscreens should be reapplied every 1-2 hours.

Q: What are Americans favorite ice cream flavors?

A: Chocolate, cookies 'n cream, strawberry and chocolate chip mint

Hydration is important during these hot summer days. What you drink can have an enormous effect on your body and health, too. If there's a magical elixir to drink, it's **WATER**. Hydration is vital for flushing toxins out of your body, which can help keep joints well lubricated and can prevent gout attacks. Drinking water before a meal can also help you eat less, promoting weight loss. Make sure busy children playing in the sun get plenty of cool water to prevent heatstroke.

Records:

Largest ice cream scoop pyramid: 3894 scoops of ice cream, created by Carvel in New York in 2002.

Longest banana split: 4.55 miles, created by the residents of Selinsgrove Pa. in 1988. The sundae required 24,000 bananas and 24,000 cherries.



Thank you for your prayers and phone calls following my recent surgery. Just knowing my church family is there is so reassuring! Linda Spayd

It's wonderful going out to my new mailbox and finding a card or note from someone at the church. Thank you, thank you from the bottom of my heart! I love and miss you all. Things are falling into place and I am loving being so close to family. Vi Elrod

## Women's Book Club

On August 14 will be the joint picnic meeting with First Congregational Elyria's book club. We will gather at 5:30 p.m. at Bur Oak pavilion #1, 6150 Ford Road in Elyria's Black River Reservation in the Lorain County Metroparks. Bring side dishes or desserts to share. We will be discussing The Last Runaway by Tracy Chevalier.

8/7 Sandy Chalkwater  
8/9 Mike Bier  
8/9 Ann Olesen  
8/13 Kelsey Veliconia  
8/14 Will Schupbach  
8/16 Peggy Poe  
8/17 Cathy Cornman  
8/18 Kathy Pero  
8/20 Lily Dornan  
8/20 Bob Franks  
8/21 Gayle Hannold  
8/31 Valerie Braham

8/31 George & Jody Millar



### ***Ushers & Greeters***

<b>July</b>	
<b>28</b>	Linda Matis, Nancy Long, Tess Anderson
<b>August</b>	
<b>4</b>	Vonnie Packard, Ann Olesen, Regenia Comerford
<b>11</b>	Joe Pesch, Ric Sasse, Edie Phillips
<b>18</b>	Shirley Sunyak, Becky Williams, Krista O'Neill
<b>25</b>	Nancy Findlay, Lynne Petroff, Millie Gilly

### ***Acolytes***

<b>July</b>	
<b>28</b>	Beth Dornan
<b>August</b>	
<b>4</b>	Ben Dornan
<b>11</b>	Rhys Kyser
<b>18</b>	Lexi Webb
<b>25</b>	Dahlia Wolanski

### ***Nursery***

<b>July</b>	
<b>28</b>	Shirley Sunyak
<b>August</b>	
<b>4</b>	Linda Matis
<b>11</b>	Renee Dornan
<b>18</b>	Ann Olesen
<b>25</b>	Shirley Sunyak



### **Meet the Dornans**

Kris, Susan, Lily (back row)  
Chase, Beth

**Kris** is a marketing manager at Rockwell International and **Susan** is an improvement RN at St. John Medical Center. **Beth** is 10, **Lily** is 7 and **Chase** is 4 years old.

**Hobbies/Activities:** The Dornans like to go to Cedar Point, swimming, going to movies at the drive-in movie theater, crafting, board games, visiting museums and taking day trips to Columbus.

**Best thing about First Congregational Church:** "How warm and welcoming everyone is. Our kids feel comfortable here and enjoy coming to church and participating in Christian Ed programs. As parents, it is so important to have a church home that our kids feel that they can go to for guidance and support."



### **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Benefit Concert and Art Show**

in honor of Ron Gibson

**October 20 at 2:00 pm**

Donations benefit Community Care

If you are interested in performing or displaying artwork, please contact Linda Matis through the church office.



Our new online giving solution is up and running! Whether you want to make a one-time payment or set up a recurring payment, our new giving platform is quick and easy!

Giving can be done in any of the following ways:

- Visit [fccalive.org/](http://fccalive.org/) and click the "Give" button at the bottom of the homepage
- Go to [pushpay.com/g/fccalive](http://pushpay.com/g/fccalive)
- Text FccAlive to 77977 on your phone!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>augUST</h1>				1 AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	2	3 Yoga 11 am Couples Recovery 6 pm
4 Communion Outreach 9 am Worship service 10 am Coffee hour 11 am	5 AA Women 7 pm	6 CE 6:30 pm Trustees 7 pm AA 1 <sup>st</sup> Step 8:30 pm	7 4-H 7 pm	8 AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	9 	10  Yoga 11 am Couples Recovery 6 pm
11 Worship service 10 am Coffee hour 11 am August birthdays' celebration 	12 AA Women 7 pm	13 AA 1 <sup>st</sup> Step 8:30 pm	14 4-H 7 pm	15 Council 7 pm AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	16 Newsletter articles due	17 Yoga 11 am Couples Recovery 6 pm
18 Communion Backpack Sunday Worship service 10 am Coffee hour 11 am VBS at Pier Lon 12:30-6 pm	19 AA Women 7 pm	20 AA 1 <sup>st</sup> Step 8:30 pm	21 4-H 7 pm	22 AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	23	24 Yoga 11 am Couples Recovery 6 pm
25 Worship service 10 am Tent Revival 11 am @ Fields UMC Hall rented 1-5 pm (Chalkwater)	26 AA Women 7 pm	27 AA 1 <sup>st</sup> Step 8:30 pm	28 4-H 7 pm	29 AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	30 Hospitality with a Heart LCAS 6:30 pm	31 Yoga 11 am Couples Recovery 6 pm

Two services will begin again on September 22, with coffee shop service at 9:00 and traditional service at

