

The Messenger

The monthly newsletter of First Congregational Church UCC of North Ridgeville

September 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 Styr

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

Happy September, everyone! Wait a second...it's September already?! Where did the summer go? Where has the time gone?!

If you're like me, this year has flown past us at unprecedented speed and now we find ourselves preparing for the fall schedule once more. As September becomes a month of transition in the seasons, it is a time of transition in our church as well. In the midst of all these transitions, there are a few things you should put on your calendars

First and foremost, on September 1 we will be holding our "Blessing of the Animals" service while the summer weather still lingers. Weather permitting we will be holding the service out back of the church on our property, so bring your feathered, furry, or scaled friends to worship as we give thanks for being part of our lives! If your beloved pet is no longer with you, or if they might not be on their best behavior with other animals, bring a photograph that we can honor them and acknowledge their role in your lives.

Then, on September 22 we return to our fall schedule of two services on Sunday mornings. The Coffee Shop service, which is a casual worship that takes place in the Fellowship Hall, begins at 9 am, and our traditional service, which includes our choir, begins at 10:30 am in our Sanctuary. No matter what type of worship experience you prefer, we have something here for you, so we hope you will join us!

Finally, on September 29 our kids will be in charge of our 10:30 service as we have another youth-led worship in our Sanctuary. Come support our young leaders as they read scripture, lead us in the liturgy, and offer us their wisdom and guidance as they remind us that the future is in excellent hands.

On a final note, if you have not done so, I invite everyone with a smart phone to download our free church app to stay up to date with the life of our congregation. There you will have access to each worship service, you can submit prayer requests, and listen to the weekly podcast episode that I release for our reflection. Stay up to date with the calendar of events, and receive push notifications as events and announcements are made with our community. To download the app, search "Mychurch app" by Pushpay on the Apple app store or Google Play, and once installed enter the keyword



"Fccalive app" to link to our congregation. Please download and spread the word – this is very important to us!

As we end our summer months together, let us recommit ourselves toward moving forward into the fall filled with energy and excitement over what comes next. May we be faithful in our commitment to the church and to one another as we work toward building a better and brighter future for us all.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Arik

Moderator's Moment – Roy Dreger

Summer vacations are mostly over and fall sports are in full swing. Most children are back studying and, of course, the church is back in active mode. Wait... were we ever in inactive mode? I don't remember that. I do remember having only one service, but otherwise there seemed to be a significant amount of activity.

We are an active church, but I wonder what we could accomplish if we had, say, 400 members and 200 young ones in Sunday School? We did have these numbers at one point, back in the 1950s and early 1960s. I wonder why we don't have more of those youth in our congregation as adults. A lot has changed since then in our church, as well as in our culture. Groups that depend on stay-at-home moms or people who work 9 to 5 Monday through Friday, have lost members or folded. Neither of those social "norms" are true anymore, and this can be a problem. **Our activities, boards and outreach all depend on volunteers.** If there aren't volunteers, there are no activities, boards or outreach. If there are no activities, boards or outreach, this congregation will cease to exist.

Now that I have mentioned the problem, let me talk about the answers to it. We have younger families that help whenever and however they can. We have youth that have demonstrated their willingness to help. And while we, as a congregation, are sometimes slow to make changes, or decisions, or volunteer, we still do most of



these things...for now. But we are in need of more volunteers. *Please* give serious thought to helping our congregation make it through the next 200 years by volunteering to do what you can. Being a Christian is not a spectator sport.

ATTN: ALL CHURCH BOARD MEMBERS!

We are holding an **All Team Meeting** for every member of every board on October 5 from 12 pm - 2 pm. It is an opportunity to meet with every person on every board and do some goal setting for the next stage of our congregation. If you are a member of any of our boards, **please be in attendance.** There will be time for discussion, collaboration, and worship as we look ahead to the future of our church. Food will be provided!

Christian Education Corner – Mary Karlovec

Welcome back! Fall programming is about to begin! Sunday School starts Sunday, September 8 at **10 AM!** As in the past, children will begin in worship with their families and leave for Sunday School after Children's Time. We are using the SHINE curriculum again this year with the fall emphasis on the Old Testament. Our teams of teachers this year are:

3's/4's: Linda Matis - **Need to fill a VACANT position**

5's-1st grade: Sandy Chalkwater & Jen Anderson

2nd-4th grade: Kathy Pero, Susan & Renee Dornan

5th-7th grade: Heather Smith, Kelsey Styrt, Kris & Kurt Dornan

Teaching **IS NOT** an every week commitment.

I need another lead teacher to support the

3's/4's and an assistant for Kathy Pero. At the

most it is twice a month depending on the

rotation. The first Sunday of the month is

ALL CHURCH SUNDAY so there is no

Sunday School. **PLEASE** give of your

TIME to support our children! A teacher's

meeting will be held Tuesday, September 3 from 6:30-7:00.

Youth Group Updates: Our 5th-7th graders will be helping to lead worship on Sunday, September 29. They will be meeting with Pastor Arik after worship on September 8 to plan for this service. Have your youth grab a snack at coffee hour and we will then meet in their Sunday School room. We should be finished by 12:30.

If you have a student in 5th-7th grades, the group will be traveling to an overnight event at First Congregational in Elmore, Ohio on Saturday/Sunday, September 14-15. Andra Moran, a Christian vocalist and musician, will be the keynote for this event. You should have received a letter with all the details in the past week. If you did not receive one, please let me know.

Women's Retreat: Final payment for the retreat needs to be in to Linda by September 30. We are looking for someone who may be willing to go to share a double with another person. If you are interested, let me know ASAP!

Outreach Committee News – Nancy Franks

Save the date: Thursday, **September 12**
Plan to attend **dining out fundraiser** at Bakers Square in North Olmsted to help wipe out the pipe organ restoration project balance. You must provide the flyer found later in this newsletter along with your bill and 20% of your check will come back to the church. Good service, good food, great pie!

Our annual blood drive is September 15 from 11:30 am to 1 pm so remember to say Yes! when asked to donate. Blood is a necessary, life-giving commodity that you can provide. Be generous! The life you save may belong to someone you know.

School has started and all the kids say thank you for the summer lunch program donations you provided. Summer was so much better on a full stomach.

Neighbors in Need is our special collection for September. Last year we collected almost \$400 for this once a year collection which provides for ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of this

collection is earmarked for the Council for American Indians (CAIM) and two-thirds is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM). Please be generous using the envelopes in your Sunday bulletin.

Food for thought: "Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God, I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand." Isaiah 41:10

Deacons' Desk – Kari Dlugosz

First of all, we want to wish all of the children and teachers of the church a wonderful school year. It is so exciting to see these kids grow and prosper. I always love seeing how much knowledge Arden gains each year both in the classroom and outside of it. Good luck students and teachers!!!

Now to business...**Let's pay off the organ repairs!!!** Fall is such a busy season with back to school obligations, football games, kid's sporting events so let's do an easy fundraiser that can raise money for the Organ Repair Fund. I will be selling squares (like Super Bowl Squares) for \$10 each for the first Cleveland Browns regular season game which is on September 8 vs. the Tennessee Titans. We need to sell 100 squares to make this a success so please ask family, friends to buy just 1 teeny, tiny square!! The church will get \$500 in proceeds and \$500 will go to the purchaser of the lucky winning squares. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd quarter winners will win \$100 each and the 4th quarter winner will win \$200!!! How awesome is that!!! If this fundraiser goes well, we will do an OSU/Michigan board too!! Please see me after church to buy your squares or if you have any questions as to how this fundraiser works.

Trustees' Turn – Pete Veliconia

Getting things done is a mantra that we are trying to live in 2019. The back entrance project is almost done. The only thing that is left is replacing the doors; that will be done as soon as they come in. We have also hired a company that will be taking the front doors off site and stripping and sanding them and

applying a nice new coat of paint. We are still waiting on a quote to finish the last of our projects and we will be finished with the must do items for the year. We have been working hard to ensure that all of the monies entrusted to us are spent in the most prudent way possible.

We also are getting ready for the next season. It is almost time to talk about our stewardship campaign; watch for info soon as we start to plan for 2020. It seems like just last week that we spoke about last year but it is upon us once again. We hate to keep talking about money but we want to keep the doors open and be a viable part of the community. It is up to us to carry on for generations to come.

Women's Book Club

On September 16 we will gather to discuss *The Life She Was Given* by Ellen Marie Wiseman. On October 21 we will be discussing *Finding Dorothy* by Elizabeth Letts. All book club gatherings are at 7 pm at the church and all women are welcome!



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/ and click the "Give" button at the bottom of the homepage
- Go to pushpay.com/g/fccalive
- Text FccAlive to 77977 on your phone!



Meet the Veliconias

Andrew, Pete, Kelsey Styr, the newest member Vitaliy Styr, Karen

Pete is an assistant bank manager at Dollar Bank and **Karen** works at LCCC as an administrative associate/records. **Andrew** is 22 and works as a tech support specialist at Hyland Software, **Kelsey** (28) is an intervention specialist at Midview Middle School, and **Vitaliy** (30) is a project manager at Paytime.

Hobbies/Activities: As a family, they love getting together with the extended family for dinners, family game/poker nights, and lots of laughter. The young men in the group enjoy playing video games and you can often find the ladies reading or watching some type of series or movie on the Amazon FireStick.

Best thing about First Congregational Church: "The people! They are truly our extended family and they have shown us so much love and support over the years. Kelsey and Andrew have grown up with this church family and that has helped them become the wonderful young adults they are today. We know that if we ever need help, it's just a phone call or text away. It's a blessing to be able to share our burdens and celebrate our joys with this wonderful group of people."



2nd 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.

- 9/2 Sandy Gast
- 9/2 Cady Kyser
- 9/2 Ian Kyser
- 9/2 Mackenzie Pero-Luter
- 9/7 Ella Eaton
- 9/7 Becky Williams
- 9/10 Jody Millar
- 9/13 Rhys Kyser
- 9/17 Vi Elrod
- 9/17 Linda Matis
- 9/21 Kari Dlugosz
- 9/23 Mary Ireland
- 9/24 Holly Chalkwater
- 9/26 Kris Dornan
- 9/26 Kurt Dornan
- 9/26 Brenda Schutz
- 9/29 Karen Mytnick



- 9/6 Dennis & Angelina Huffman
- 9/20 Pete & Karen Veliconia

Ushers & Greeters

Sept.	
1	Nancy Long, Tess Anderson, Pete Veliconia
8	Vonnie Packard, Ann Olesen, Regenia Comerford
15	Joe Pesch, Ric Sasse, Edie Phillips
22	Nancy Long, Becky Williams, Krista O'Neill
29	Nancy Findlay, Lynne Petroff, Millie Gilly

Acolytes

Sept	
1	Abby Anderson
8	Cady Kyser
15	Nate Schupbach
22	Mackenzie Pero-Luter
29	Jillian Smoker

Nursery

Sept.	
1	Ann Olesen
8	Allison Borstad
15	Shirley Sunyak
22	Amy Eaton
29	Ann Olesen

Donate blood. Experience the wonder.



**First
 Congregational
 Church**

SUNDAY, SEPT. 15
11:30 A.M. - 1 P.M.
 36363 CENTER RIDGE RD.,
 NORTH RIDGEVILLE

Sign up online & earn hero points at
vitalant.org/OhioDonorPortal
 Sponsor code: firstccnr

Please eat before you donate.

Bring a photo ID & a list of any medications you take.

For more information or to schedule a donation,
 call 877.258.4825 or visit us at vitalant.org
 Find us @vitalant:



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Blessing of the Animals service 10 am	2 Labor Day OFFICE CLOSED AA Women 7 pm	3 Sunday school teachers' mtg. 6:30 pm CE 7 pm Trustees 7 pm AA 1 st Step 8:30 pm	4 Choir 6:30 pm	5 AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	6	7 Yoga 11 am Couples Recovery 6 pm
8 Communion Outreach 9 am Worship service 10 am Sunday school begins September birthdays' celebration	9 AA Women 7 pm	10 AA 1 st Step 8:30 pm	11 Choir 6:30 pm	12 Dine & Donate fundraiser at Bakers Square 7 am-10pm AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	13	14 Youth overnight to Elmore UCC→ Yoga 11 am Couples Recovery 6 pm
15 ←youth overnight Worship service 10 am Blood Drive 11:30 a-1p	16 Newsletter articles due Women's book club 7 pm AA Women 7 pm	17 AA 1 st Step 8:30 pm	18 Choir 6:30 pm	19 Council 7 pm AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	20	21 Yoga 11 am Couples Recovery 6 pm
22 Communion Coffee Shop Svc. 9:00 Traditional Svc. 10:30	23 AA Women 7 pm	24 AA 1 st Step 8:30 pm	25 Choir 6:30 pm	26 AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 8 pm	27 Hospitality with a Heart LCAS 6:30 pm	28 Wedding 4 pm Yoga 11 am Couples Recovery 6 pm
29 Coffee Shop Svc. 9:00 Traditional Svc. 10:30 (Youth led service) Deacons 11:30 am	30 AA Women 7 pm					