

# The Messenger

The monthly newsletter of First Congregational Church UCC of North Ridgeville

**May 2021**

**Pastor**

Rev. Arik Borstad

**Director, Christian Education**

Mary Karlovec

**Music Director**

Barb Habecker

**Moderator**

Roy Dreger

**Vice-Moderator**

Nancy Franks

**Co-Chairs, Christian Education**

Kelsey Veliconia

Renee Dornan

**Chair, Deacons**

Kathy Pero

**Chair, Outreach**

Nancy Franks

**Chair, Trustees**

Jack Fitts

**Treasurer, Secretary**

Linda Matis

**From the Pastor's Pen**

With May upon us, we continue to push forward, hopeful of a return to some sense of normalcy. As far as that goes with us at the church, we will be continuing to meet in person on each Sunday at 10:30am, which will also be livestreamed to our Facebook page and later posted to the website. We will also be celebrating Mother's Day on Sunday, May 9 so hopefully you can join us as we celebrate the women who have made an impact on us in our lives.

For now, however, I want to leave you with some "May Musings." These are all taken from the book of Proverbs and perhaps one of these ancient wisdom sayings might speak to you this month. Enjoy!

"Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." – Proverbs 16:18

"The mind of the righteous ponders how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil." – Proverbs 15:28

"The human mind plans the way, but the Lord directs the steps." – Proverbs 16:9

"Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray." – Proverbs 22:6

"Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life." - Proverbs 4:23

"As iron sharpens iron, one person sharpens the wits of another." – Proverbs 27:17

"A cheerful heart is a good medicine, but a downcast spirit dries up the bones." Proverbs 17:22

"A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." – Proverbs 15:1

"Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits." – Proverbs 18:21

"A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold." – Proverbs 22:1

"Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy." – Proverbs 31:8-9



PLEASE CONTINUE  
TO **RESERVE A  
SPOT FOR  
WORSHIP EACH  
WEEK** SO WE CAN  
ENSURE SOCIAL  
DISTANCING &  
KEEP EVERYONE  
HEALTHY & SAFE!!

### Moderator's Moment – Roy Dreger

Some food for thought. I was talking with a friend a while ago and he told me about listening to an old record; he felt the lyrics were true today as much as they were way back when. It made me think of a song I remember from my younger days titled "The Merry Minuet" written by Sheldon Harnick in 1955. Here are the lyrics:

They're rioting in Africa,  
They're starving in Spain.  
There's hurricanes in Florida,  
And Texas needs rain.

The whole world is festering  
With unhappy souls.  
The French hate the Germans,  
The Germans hate the Poles;  
Italians hate Yugoslavs,  
South Africans hate the Dutch,  
And I don't like anybody very much!

But we can be tranquil  
And "thankfill" and proud,  
For man's been endowed  
With a mushroom-shaped cloud.  
And we know for certain  
That some lovely day  
Someone will set the spark off,  
And we will all be blown away!

You probably have heard other songs by Sheldon Harnick. He collaborated with Jerry Bock for the music in *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Fiorello!* among other musicals. If you want to hear what this song sounds like there are some examples on You Tube. (My favorite is by the Kingston Trio.)

After 55 years its basic message, contained in the last lines, still seems to ring true. This makes me think of the ending to another song from my youth titled "Where Have All the Flowers Gone". The last line in that song: "Oh, when will they ever learn?"



### Christian Education Corner – Mary Karlovec

On Sunday, April 18 we returned to a modified in person Sunday School program. It had been 13 months and one week since our church school children had been in the classrooms at church and they were excited to be there. Just like our online programming that we have done since September 2020, there are currently only two groupings of kids. I am teaching the 5 year olds through second graders and a team consisting of 3-4 other adults are rotating through our 4<sup>th</sup> graders and above. Covid protocols are being observed (mask wearing, social distancing and cleaning of tables etc.). I am happy to report that all of our adults helping out are fully vaccinated! We will continue this programming through June 6.

**There will be NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on Sunday, May 30** (Memorial Day weekend). On Sunday, June 13 we will transition to our summer schedule. Our younger group (5 year olds through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade) will continue to meet during worship for Sunday School while our older kids will remain in worship.

We are continuing to **not** offer child care in the nursery as we transition back into the building. **PLEASE remember to contact the church office by noon on Friday of each week to reserve a seat in worship for your family.** This is to help us have enough seating in the sanctuary as well as enough manpower and supplies on hand for the children in Sunday School. Due to Covid protocols, we have to distribute supplies/materials differently and I have to make sure they are ready BEFORE Sunday morning!

Now for some exciting news! Three of our youth, Kris Dornan and I are traveling with a small group of UCC youth/adults to Lotts Creek in Kentucky the week of June 18-25 to help work in their school and community. Each year a large group of youth and adults from the Living Water and Northwest Association travel to Lotts Creek to work at the work camp. Last year was the first time in many decades that this has not happened. Many of our young adults have been



a part of this experience in the past and will tell you it was a life changing experience. Margaret Mills, who leads this trip, offered us the opportunity for a few of the spaces. Covid protocols will be in place (which is why it is a very small group going this year). **HOWEVER, with this short notice, Covid, and costs involved, we are asking for your help.** The



cost per person is \$350. We are hoping to find ways to raise enough money to pay for the chaperones (something we have always done in the past) and at least part of the cost per youth! That is approximately \$1700.

You can help in two ways: support our popcorn sale (see info in the Messenger) and/or make a monetary donation. All monetary donations, if writing a check, need to be made out to the church and please note that it is for the Lotts Creek trip. If possible, all donations need to be in by June 1 so I know how much each youth still needs to pay. I know this is a hard time financially for everyone so all donations will be joyfully used to support our mission! (To tell you how strongly I feel about these youth having this opportunity, I am doing this two weeks before Matt and Cathleen's wedding!)

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

Easter was made so much nicer because of you and your generosity for our special Community Care family this year. With so much love and well wishes, they received a large Easter basket filled with fruit, candy, books, games, and stuffed animals to cuddle to make their Easter a joyous one. Jesus lives!!

Thank you for your continuing generosity for the One Great Hour of Sharing collection for those near and far without a voice for needs beyond our understanding, both personal and political. May God bless both the givers and receivers.

We continue to work with Community Care by supporting them through their Club 100. We voted to contribute \$100 a month for a year for needs above and beyond the ones already being addressed monthly. As one knows in our

own personal lives, this happens often, and when it does, extra money is really appreciated.

We have decided to not sponsor a rummage sale this year because, although things are looking up with social distancing and vaccines, counts are again on the rise and folks are still hesitant to attending in crowds. Maybe next year, so save your items for the big one in 2022!

Remember to send notes, make phone calls, and offer your assistance to our shut in friends. We actually feel better helping someone in need. We are God's hands here on earth, so let's do our part to share the love with one another.

Hoping to see you in church for Mother's Day!

"Through LOVE, serve one another." Galatians 5:13

### **Deacons' Desk – Diane Perry**

It's May! The month we celebrate Mothers and remember our fallen service members. For all the mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and special women in our lives, I share a verse from Mother Teresa. *You will teach them to fly, but they will not fly your flight. You will teach them to dream, but they will not dream your dream. You will teach them to live, but they will not live your life. Nevertheless, in every flight, in every life, in every dream, the print of the way you taught them will remain.* God's blessings to you all.

Memorial Day is the unofficial start to summer, the time we have all been anxiously awaiting, but let us not forget Memorial Day is a time to remember those courageous individuals who gave their lives to protect and defend the freedoms of our country. ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL.

### **Trustees' Turn – Chris Dlugosz**

Yay! I actually have things to report to everyone! It has been a long year but we are breaking through! We have started to have in person services, which is great. We are social creatures by nature and being apart for so long was tough. The trustees are having our first in

person meeting since the Fall! It will be great to get in the trenches with everyone again and go over the massive spreadsheets that Linda prints out (after a few years of looking at them, I think they are starting to make sense to me....a little bit)! We have also upgraded the Christian Ed computer so that Linda and Mary can have competition over whose computer is faster. It feels great to get something done and we are looking forward to getting back to business as usual!

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

Welcome May! Flowers and sun and more time outside with loved ones. Easter service was amazing! So good to see our church friends. I will admit that as a deacon I was apprehensive about being able to keep everyone safe. Fortunately, church members know what to do to keep each other safe (like social distancing).

We are seeing positive news about the fight to control the coronavirus. As of April 14, 36.8% of Ohio's population have received their first dose of vaccine and 20.5% have received their second dose. These numbers will be considerably higher by the time you read this. I encourage everyone to get the vaccine. Vaccines are safe and effective. At the time I am writing this there is a pause on the Johnson & Johnson vaccine so that the CDC and FDA can review the *very rare* (6 in 6.8 million doses) possible reaction to that vaccine. The safety protocol is working and transparent and the review should be resolved by May.

I know many of our members are fully vaccinated as are we, and it feels good, but there is still reason for caution. Lorain County is still at red level 3 and the UK variant B.1.1.7 is spreading. The Ohio Department of Health says to continue to wear a mask, socially distance, and avoid large gatherings. The CDC still recommends avoiding discretionary travel, shopping trips, and social visits. Also, avoid social gatherings of more than 10 people, avoid eating or drinking at bars and restaurants and food courts. Nobody wants to hear this but we

need to listen to the experts and stay up-to-date.

If you haven't already received your vaccine, you can make an appointment at [loraincountyhealth.com/signup](http://loraincountyhealth.com/signup). Eligible people may choose appointments based on date, time, location, and type of vaccine. People with limited internet access can make appointments by dialing 211 to make an appointment through a scheduling partner. With the weather improving, you can enjoy visiting with friends and family outdoors.

*A sunrise and sunset remind us of new beginnings and the hope of a better tomorrow.* – Richard Krawczyk

Happy Mother's Day to all our mothers and mother figures!

- 5/1 Shirley Sunyak
- 5/5 Megan O'Neill
- 5/5 Lily Schutz
- 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

- 5/15 Jack & Betty Fitts
- 5/23 John & Valerie Arnold
- 5/29 Dave & Peggy Poe





## Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser

Order & payment due by May 25  
 Checks payable to First Congregational UCC  
 Approx. 7 cups per bag-all flavors

SAVORY FLAVORS			
	Quantity	Price	Total Cost
Butter		\$6.00	
Cheddar		\$6.00	
Cheddar Bacon		\$6.00	
Kettle		\$6.00	
Garlic Parmesan		\$6.00	
Buffalo Ranch		\$6.00	
Hot Jalapeño		\$6.00	
SWEET FLAVORS			
	Quantity	Price	Total Cost
Caramel		\$7.00	
Depot Delight (cheddar caramel mix)		\$7.00	
Confetti (fruity mix)		\$7.00	
Birthday Cake		\$7.00	
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED</b>			

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



### Strengthen the Church:

#### Faithfully Building the Body of Christ

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

Our collection for Strengthen the Church begins May 2 and concludes on May 23. Please note "Strengthen the Church" on your check or offering envelope.

**INVEST IN THE VISION OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST.**