

# The Messenger

The monthly newsletter of First Congregational Church UCC of North Ridgeville

**July 2021**

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Rev. Arik Borstad

**Director, Christian Education**

Mary Karlovec

**Music Director**

Barb Habecker

**Moderator**

Roy Dreger

**Vice-Moderator**

Nancy Franks

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Renee Dornan

**Chair, Deacons**

Kathy Pero

**Chair, Outreach**

Nancy Franks

**Chair, Trustees**

Paul Wolanski

**Treasurer, Secretary**

Linda Matis

**From the Pastor's Pen**

July is here and as we find ourselves in the midst of the summer, there are a few things that are worth being brought to your attention. First and foremost, on July 4<sup>th</sup> we will be having a slightly different worship service than what we typically have on most Sundays. Since I will be out of commission for that weekend, we will be having a hymn sing service interspersed with scripture readings and prayers. This is a lovely way for us to kick off our holiday celebrations, so make sure to join us for an exciting service!

The following week, July 11 we will be hosting a guest speaker, Carla Valles, who will be speaking to us on the importance and beauty of diversity. This is right in line with our identity as being an Open and Affirming congregation and I know we will benefit from her expertise and her passion. Please make sure to join us on this special Sunday as we explore how important diversity is in the beautiful tapestry of God's creation!

Finally, General Synod is taking place this month from July 11 through July 18. I have been asked to serve as one of the delegates for our association/conference so I will be attending the virtual event throughout the week. Our Member in Discernment, Matthew Hogue-Smith, is a delegate as well so our church is very well represented in our slew of voting delegates. There are several important resolutions being discussed this year and you can learn all about them at the website <https://www.generalsynod.org/>

I hope everyone continues to have a wonderful summer and I look forward to seeing what the coming months bring us next!

Blessings and Peace,  
Pastor Arik



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

"Did you hear about...?" "Were you aware of...?" "Did you notice...?" The question is left blank on purpose because it can be anything. It can be a light out, someone that is sick, a person that hasn't been seen in a while. Well, just anything. These issues are bound to occur, but they should not be left without being forwarded to the appropriate person or board. It does not matter if you think the issue is one that should be readily apparent; it needs to be passed on. There are boards that can address problems. If there is a problem with the building or grounds, let a trustee know. If you know of someone that is sick or hasn't been to church in a while, give them a call. If you get no answer, or think there is a need for personal contact, let a deacon or Pastor Arik know, depending on the situation. Deacons, Pastor Parish or Trustees all deal with staff and any issues involving them. The point is to let someone know. A small thing can become a big problem. If in doubt about whom to tell, let a Council member know so that it can be brought to the correct board at the next meeting. I just thought you might want to know....



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

I am writing this as I prepare for the mission trip to Lotts Creek. I just realized that I have not been there since 2012 due to Matt's illness. I am nervous yet excited to share with Beth and Ben Dornan what many of our youth have experienced before them. I can guarantee you that it is a life-changing experience each time we go. Our kids will be the youngest ones on the

journey this year. Almost all of the other youth and adults have been to Lotts Creek at least one other time so I am hopeful they will take our two under their wings. Our trip could not have been possible without the generous support of this congregation. From those who bought popcorn from our popcorn sale to the Outreach Committee to those who donated funds, I thank you! Your support sends a very important message to our youth that our church supports the mission efforts of the UCC not only locally but places and instances where it is needed. Added to funding this trip, we are taking two Xerox boxes of school supplies donated during Lent by members of this church. Added to that are three more boxes of school supplies donated by fellow teachers of mine (plus \$120 in cash so they can buy extras of what they need) and five boxes of books for the school community! Again, this speaks volumes as to who we are as a congregation. My heart is filled with gratitude!

Near the end of July, families of youth in grades 7 and above will be receiving a letter inviting parents/youth to a gathering to hear about the upcoming confirmation program for the 2021-2022 school year. We will give you insight into the program we have put together as well as expectations if your youth chooses to be part of the program. There is a large group of youth who can participate this year so we will be asking for mentors and support from the congregation. What a wonderful time to be part of a confirmation class--the year of our 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary!



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

We welcome this month of celebration of the United States of America, land of the free, home of the brave. Together we stand strong against the factions that try to eliminate the freedoms we hold so dear—the freedoms our forefathers fought to the death to secure, the ideas of united peoples from all walks of life shaping our working society within the borders of this land we call home. With God guiding our actions, we must do our part to protect her, preserving the American spirit of hard work and brotherly love that made this great country what it became—a place where people from all over the world want to come, want to emulate. In God we trust. Long may we live. God bless America!

Thank you again to the Deacons and Outreach for celebrating fathers with a special reading and handout of Danish for dads at the end of the service. Becky Williams and the committee assembled the treats for this special occasion.

Genesis House is a Lorain County program to assist families in need of a safe house to live in and get help to reunite their members during very chaotic and dangerous periods of time in their lives. This can be for overnight or for longer periods of time. They are in need of donations of money for gasoline, etc. right now. Please mark your offering envelope “Genesis House”. Thank you in advance.

Our annual blood drive is September 12, 2021. To be eligible to donate at our blood drive you cannot donate blood after July 4 as there needs to be eight weeks between blood donations. Thank you for saving your blood for our blood drive.



Community Care is asking for a representative from our church for their board. If you think you might be interested in this position, please contact me or Pastor Arik regarding this prospect.

Fun in fellowship and fundraising will be taking place in August! Look for more information soon and be ready to join us!!

The summer lunch program at Community Care needs your monetary help. Any amount is welcome. Mark your offering envelope “summer lunch program”. The money will help buy fruit and other lunch items for North Ridgeville school kids. Thank you.

### **Deacons’ Desk – Deb Arrigo**

Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July! Why does America celebrate the 4th of July? Something about apple pie, explosions in the sky, baseball games, and BBQ flames, right? No. On July 4, 1776 thirteen colonies in North America decided they were done paying their taxes, and over their allegiance to the King of England. Colonial leaders got together to write the Declaration of Independence and then sign it into being. The Declaration of Independence was written by thirteen different colonies, but within the document, they are called “we.” “We hold these truths to be self-evident ...” Jesus set you and me free as individuals, but *we* live out this freedom as His Church. One body with many parts (1 Corinthians 12:1-27). When your “I” becomes “we,” it’s amazing what *we* can accomplish.



For all living Americans, July 4th is a gift. We didn’t earn it—we received it from the people who lived, led, and died to fight for it. Everyone who gets a gift has two questions. First, “Who is it from?” and “what

does it do?" My freedom in Christ is from Jesus. I didn't earn it; He died for it. That's who it's from. It's *for* freedom; we've been set free. What does my freedom do? It gives more freedom. It's freedom for me, my children, my friends, my family, and my neighbors. I was given this gift to share.

So, this July 4<sup>th</sup> remember what freedom means and share this wonderful gift!

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

We are in mid-summer swing and the trustees are moving on with some projects. The church looks beautiful from the sorely needed spring cleaning and re-mulching! Jack installed the ramp at the entry to the elevator and it looks fantastic. We have a group ready to power wash, repair, and repaint the front doors of our church. It should be a nice upgrade. We still have some other things we are working on, but that's what we are here for!

It feels good to start checking projects off the list again! If anyone is interested in joining the trustees, please reach out to us! I can't keep being the only one laughing at Jon's (Eaton) bad jokes!

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

#### **New Guidelines for Colorectal Cancer Screenings**

Screening is now recommended for all people beginning at age 45 rather than at age 50. Ten percent of colorectal cancer cases now are occurring in people who are under age 50. Colorectal cancer is the third leading cause of cancer death in the United States. With average risk screening dropping down to starting at age 45, the hope is that cancer would be caught earlier,

catching it at the polyp stage which is a precancerous lesion. Removing a polyp at this stage can prevent that person from getting colorectal cancer.

The importance of screening is to find colorectal cancer before a person develops symptoms. The U.S. Preventive services Task Force's recommendation is good news for patients. It is an endorsement for doctors, for insurance companies, and for policy-forming organizations who help to determine whether you will have your testing covered by insurance. Talk to your doctor if you are 45 or older or have other risk factors. (Information provided by Dr. Lisa Boardman, a Mayo Clinic gastroenterologist)

7/6 Joan Bier  
7/6 Dahlia Wolanski  
7/14 Sage Borstad  
7/14 Bob Karlovec  
7/15 Jen Anderson  
7/15 Edie Phillips  
7/22 Anita Packard  
7/24 Barb Habecker  
7/25 Diana Goode  
7/25 Andrea Summer-Feigi

7/3 Bob & Nancy Franks  
7/12 Kurt & Renee Dornan  
7/18 Bob & Mary Karlovec  
7/21 Brian & Barb Zinsmeister  
7/25 Arik & Allison Borstad  
7/28 Vitaliy & Kelsey Styrt



Thank you for all of the cards, prayers, and phone calls during my knee replacement surgery recovery! – Nancy Franks