

The Messenger

The monthly newsletter of First Congregational Church UCC of North Ridgeville

March 2022

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Rev. Tony Clark

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Mary Karlovec

Music Director
Barb Habecker

Moderator
Roy Dreger

Vice-Moderator
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Kelsey Styrt
Renee Dornan

Chair, Deacons

Chair, Outreach
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Chair, Trustees
Paul Wolanski

Treasurer, Secretary
Linda Matis

From the Pastor's Pen

Vision is one of those words that might mean something different in church than it would, say, to an ophthalmologist. "Vision", "sight", "dreaming" are all metaphors used in the Bible to describe knowing God and God's will. We sing "Be Thou my Vision", and "Open my Eyes, That I May See", and we hear Paul's words to the Corinthians, "For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face" (I Cor 13:12). Jesus restored sight to blind people and challenged his disciples to see him for what he is.

We know of vision as one of the five physical senses, and we also talk about visions of sugar plums. However, vision in the Bible comes with prophecies. Several books in the Bible, including Joel 2, Acts 2, and Isaiah 43 give us something like, "I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions." Prophetic witness is about turning visions and dreams into words, seeing what God intends and speaking that into the spaces where God's ideal is distorted. This kind of vision is seeing what is possible now or in the very near future and calling it forth.

Churches can be places of vision where the Kingdom of God can be visualized and spoken into being. We co-create this Kingdom with God each time we act into those visions. Periodically, churches need to adjust their visions because the world around us changes and a vision useable in one time may be out of touch in the newness that God recreates every day.

This year is a good time to envision what God is calling FCC to next. A solid vision statement will help the Search Committee as they work on the church profile and it will help your next pastor understand who you are and where you think God is calling you. In this 200th anniversary year as we celebrate the past, we can envision how God wants the next many years to go. We stand on the past to



move toward the future, continuing what is working and adjusting where we need to. Over the next few months, there will be opportunities to engage in the spiritual practice of vision work for the church. I hope you will join us on this journey to discover and discern God's deepest desires for FCC.

The lyrics of the favorite UCC hymn, "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" (New Century Hymnal #286) end this way: "You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes, from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams; our women see visions, our men clear their eyes. With bold new decisions your people arise." May God give us the clear vision to see tomorrow with open eyes and may we have courage to step into that vision.

Peace,
Pastor Tony

Moderator's Moment – Roy Dreger

When I was working, I was told that there were (at that time) about 1500 changes to the Ohio Revised Code in any given year. Some of the changes were small, just a word or phrase added or changed. Some were entire new laws or new sections to existing ones. It certainly kept the printers busy, at least until they went digital.

The police department had its share of changes as well. Some changes had to do with compliance to changes in the law or changes in internal policies and procedures. (Just as in the medical field, insurance company requirements drove many of our policies and procedures.) Some changes had to do with forms. One change that always stood out to me was when we had to report the mileage on all vehicles listed in a crash report. I found out that

insurance companies wanted the information for their actuarial tables. Turns out that a lot of what has been required on crash reports over the years has been used by insurance companies; law enforcement agencies didn't (and still do not) need some of the information on them.

There also were ones for which there was no given reason for the change, apparently just change for the sake of change, the "answer in search of a problem" change. Other changes were the result of attending a class or seminar where new ideas were introduced. Many of them were good ideas, but some would not work for the size, make-up, or finances of our department. Not every idea, or policy, is one size fits all.

Changes happen all the time and the good ones make things better. Some well-intentioned ones can unfortunately lead to confusion or worse if not thought out properly or poorly communicated. Sometimes it takes a while to see how well a change works when you are part of the change.

We are going through a period of change as we try to work together as one body to make our church better. So, if you don't like a particular change, it is important to let someone know about it and why it doesn't work for you. If a change does work for you, it's equally important to let someone know how you feel about that change and why.

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Pursuant to the conversation at the annual meeting, I am providing this summary of the 11-page UCC Heartland Conference clergy compensation guidelines. These are guidelines that establish what the conference and

association believe should be included in clergy compensation; what is agreed to in any contract is up to the parties involved.

Starting salary (cash) should be \$34,292 plus 0.7% increase for 2022 cost of living increase. This is for a full-time minister working 45-55 hour per week. (They recommend checking it against the salary of local school teachers with a master's degree.) To this add, for the number of years of experience, \$825 for 1<sup>st</sup> year ministers and up to \$21,000 for those with 50 years of experience. To this add a housing allowance equal to a fair rental cost in the area, or 30% of cash salary. To the above add the following benefits:

- Social security offset (7.65% of cash salary plus housing allowance); reimbursement of all professional expenses,
- reimbursement for per mile use of his/her personal vehicle (per IRS guidelines),
- moving expenses,
- cost of background check,
- health, dental and vision insurance,
- life and disability insurance,
- liability insurance,
- contribution to his/her annuity (14% of cash salary plus housing allowance),
- flexible spending account plan (set up through the UCC Pension Board),
- reimbursement for educational materials and continuing education (1% of annual cash salary plus housing allowance),
- parental leave (up to 3 months),
- compassionate leave (issues with immediate family, 5-7 days per year),
- sick leave (1 day/month cumulative to 30 days),
- vacation (minimum of 30 days, including 4 Sundays),

- two days off per week, limit on evening meetings,
- worker's compensation, and finally,
- sabbatical leave to consist of 1 month after 3 years, 2 months after 4 years, 3 months after 5 years (this repeats after the first complete cycle)

Part time clergy should be given the same benefits as full time clergy.

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

Happy Spring! I am hoping for an early return to blue skies, budding trees and warmer weather! The weather on Sundays in January and February have really taken a toll on faith formation programming. I am hoping that better weather will get us back on track as we enter the season of Lent.

Speaking of Lent, **Wednesday, March 2 is Ash Wednesday**. I would like to encourage everyone, including our children, to attend this very meaningful and important service. I will have materials available in the sanctuary for the younger children to help them understand this very important day in the life of the church. On **Saturday, April 9** we will have our annual **Easter Egg Hunt** and Lenten activities from 4-7 p.m.



Families are asked to bring at least a dozen hard boiled eggs to color as well as their own dinner for their family. This event is open to anyone in our church family. Please sign up on the signup sheet outside my office by April 3 so we know how many to plan for. For this event, we need candy donations to fill over 400 eggs! There is a blue tote inside my office marked **“Easter Egg Candy”**. All candies must be individually wrapped and I ask that there be no candies with peanut/nuts as we do have

kids with those allergies and need to fit inside the Easter eggs.

Our Pre-K -2<sup>nd</sup> graders have started their immersion into the book We Are All Wonders by R.J. Palacio. Our 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders are continuing to work through the book Wonder by R.J. Palacio. I have 4 copies of the book Wonder available for any of our adults who would like to read it. It is an easy adult read and perfect for understanding the importance of kindness in our world today. See me if you would like to borrow a copy! Also, did you know that there is a large lending library of books in my office? It is just inside the door to the left. Come check it out before or after church! There is a wide variety of books available!

Collection jars have gone home with all of our children and youth for our 200 coins for 200 years. They will be returning them on Palm Sunday and will be presented to the church on our 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary kickoff on May 1. I have a few jars left if any adults want to fill a jar with coins. Please see me for one if interested.

Finally, the youth will be sponsoring a popcorn sale similar to last year to raise money for the trip to Lotts Creek in June. We are hoping to kick it off soon so that we can have the popcorn available for Easter baskets and gifts. Information will be available soon in the weekly bulletin. And of course, we will have samples!

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

As we begin a new month in the year of our lives, let us always remember to help one another in every way we are able. For as we do this, we help ourselves to be closer to God in spirit.

**One Great Hour of Sharing** is the special collection for March. When you give,

be generous as you and the greater UCC help those all over the world with disaster relief, health, and



agricultural development education. It's our church's wider mission and a way we can be of service to others. The collection will run from **March 6 through 27**. Thank you in advance!

It's hard to believe but we begin our Lenten Journey with Ash Wednesday on March 2. May this time of Holy Remembrance be especially meaningful for us all. Look for special programs preparing us for Easter.

The **One World Shop** will be in fellowship hall on Sunday, **May 1 from 10 am to 2 pm** with beautiful items created by artisans in third world countries for us to see and purchase for self, family and friends. Be sure to save the date<sup>3</sup> hosted by Outreach. Remember, Mother's Day is the following week. 😊

We are planning a dine to donate fundraiser the last week of April. Look for more information coming soon.

Community Care's food pantry needs have not diminished. Please share canned or dry packaged food products with them for those in need in our community. Donation boxes are provided in the Sunday school wing by the elevator and in fellowship hall. Thank you for helping those in need.

Keep saving your gently used or new items for our **May 21<sup>st</sup> rummage sale!** The sale will run from 9 am to 2 pm and Friday, May 20 will be the set-up day. This is an all-church fundraiser and we will need helpers for both days. It's fun in fellowship! Lunch will be available for workers. Please plan to help out by donating your items or working

the set-up and/or sale days. More information will be coming. **(PLEASE do not bring in donations yet! Drop off will be the week before the sale.)**

On a personal note, I would like to thank our church family for all the kindness share with me during my time of healing the past few months. Prayers, cards, and calls have made this time of uncertainty easier to transition. Thanking God for you!

“We plant a tree this day and leave the blossoming to God.” (copied from Apples Gold Book Published by the C.R. Gibson Co.)

### **Deacons’ Desk – Kris Dornan**

It’s interesting as I also penned a column about one year ago highlighting an anniversary of the COVID pandemic. Now two years in, we’ve changed, grown and appreciated how work and life continue to function! Our church as well has found ways to continue to grow and continue to be a place where we can celebrate as a faith community. It is our congregation, and our familial bonds that make this possible. I hear one of my favorite verses in my head, “With God, all things are possible!”

In our recent past, we have come together to balance our 2022 budget! Kudos to Linda Matis and our church leadership for that work and as well our congregation to make a way where a way was not visible.

With that obstacle crossed, we anticipate future needs. We see future budgets that will require more funding to support a full-time sitting pastor. It will take all of us to continue to pray, to serve and to bless this church with our talents, and our monetary giving.

This may seem like a debilitating problem with no solution, but I see this as an opportunity for growth! I do believe that

COVID is ending its final stages. I see a world that is ready and waiting to get out and connect with our neighbors. I see our community continuing to grow, continuing to show new housing builds. I see people who can benefit by seeing Christ through us, and to share Christ with others as part of our faith community. Let us continue to pray and to discuss how we best prepare for our future but let us do that with a feeling of hope and of promise! I know that our neighbors will see that glow and will want to be part of it!

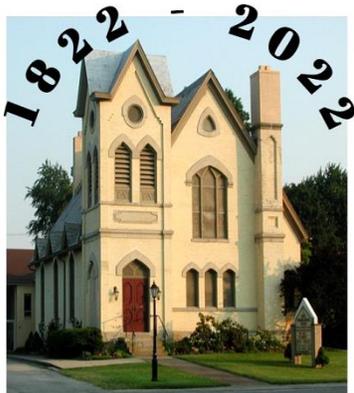
God bless you all, and keep you, my friends.

### **Trustees’ Turn – Paul Wolanski**

Hello, my family in Christ! Hopefully by the time you read this, the budget and the new Trustees members will be ratified, certified, and otherwise approved...then we can get back to more official business. However, we are continuing to work on the water pressure issue inside the church. We will keep you updated.

- 3/2 Mikey Feigi
- 3/2 Nema Saleem-Green
- 3/4 Vonnie Packard
- 3/7 Jane Woravka
- 3/8 Amy Eaton
- 3/16 Barb vonBenken
- 3/25 Jamie Schupbach
- 3/27 Jim Yost
- 3/30 Arden Dlugosz
- 3/31 Grayson Pero-Luter
  
- 3/7 Larry & Karen Mytnick
- 3/11 Joe & Dolores Pesch
- 3/20 Eric & Carol Diekman





First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ

*Sharing Faith, Hope and Love with all  
for 200 years*

## **A Moment in History #1**

Our church's beginnings started when the first settlers came to this area in 1810. Farmers from Connecticut traded their land for first choice of a quarter of township 16-6 from Ephraim Root who was a notable Hartford attorney. His father, Jessie Root, had been a delegate to the Continental Congress and had served as Chief Justice of Connecticut. Ephraim was a signer of the ratification adopting the U.S. Constitution. Ephraim initially invested \$42,000 in the Western Reserve, and by 1807 Root owned Township 16-6 and part of seven other townships. In the fall of 1809 David Beebe, Oliver Terrell, and Ichabod Terrell swapped their land in Waterbury, Connecticut for first choice of a quarter of Township 16-6.

The first party set out for the new lands in April of 1810. They included David Beebe and two sons, David and Loman, Joel Terrell, Philander Terrell, Elihu Terrell, Lyman Root, Sheldon Wooster, Mansfield Webb, Amos and Orrin Hotchkiss, and Ira B. Morgan. They left on foot with their knapsacks on their backs, covering 640 miles in 30 days. At Buffalo they had bought axes and other tools and hired a boat to take supplies to Cleveland where some would be brought by packhorse to Rootstown, named for the man who owned the land.

The travelers followed a mushy, overgrown old Indian Trail (now Root Road), the only local option between the interior and Lake Erie. They came to a high, well-drained ridge which they named Butternut Ridge for the prevalent trees and then, half a mile later, Chestnut Ridge named for the enormous giants growing there. Near the township center and Center Creek they set up camp on May

10, 1810. David Beebe, Jr. felled the first tree. They immediately began to clear land and built a crude log cabin which had a dirt floor and was covered with large sheets of bark. This was Bachelors Hall. Until the following spring, 18 pioneers slept here on gathered leaves. They cleared about two acres and planted corn and potatoes. They also cleared a road southeasterly from camp to Headley's Mill in Columbia. This was the mud trail.

The first Sunday after completing their journey – May 15, 1810 – they held a religious service. Joel Terrell took out his Testament, read a chapter, prayed, and read a Psalm. David Beebe pitched a tune and they all sang. From then on Sabbath services were held regularly in the homes. Joel Terrell is said to have done more than anyone else to establish worship and maintain it. This home worship continued for 12 years. (Feb. 13, 2022)

## **A Moment in History #2**

That first spring the little colony had to go eight miles to Columbia for their provisions. Some would go on Saturday and return on Monday with enough provisions on their backs to last through the week.

The first settlement was made July 6, 1810, when Tillotson Terrell, his wife Electa and three children Horatio (age 5), Eliza (age 3) and Alonzo (age 10 months) arrived at Rootstown. To be regarded as "settlers", a pioneer needed to bring a wife and live in the specified locale. Electa settled into the crude bachelor cabin while Tillotson built their cabin. She cared for her kids and the workers. The forest was dark, dangerous, confusing, and lonely. Electa did not see another white woman for almost four months.

The pioneers of Rootstown got busy building their cabins within  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile of the center line, three east and one west. After David Beebe, Sr. had completed his cabin – about the middle of July – David Beebe, Jr. returned to Connecticut for his family. Ichabod Terrell and his family of four sons and two daughters returned with them. They reached Rootstown on October 25, 1810. Two wagons, three yoke of oxen, and one horse brought 22 emigrants – the oldest was 82 years old and the youngest was five weeks old – and their effects.

For a time, food was very scarce and hard to procure. A mush of jointed corn, milk, and stewed pumpkin was one of the dishes they were compelled to eat. In 1813 the first mill was built and the settlers were able to get their corn ground. Grapes were abundant in Ridgeville's windfall area where a tornado had flattened the trees but gatherers had to work through a tangle of vines and logs and risk being food for the wildlife. Cranberries were plentiful for those willing to share the swamps with rattlesnakes. Tart cranberries demanded sweetener, which meant honey coaxed from swarms of bees. Joel Terrell was one of the most successful bee hunters.

The Indians frequently sold venison to Ridgeville settlers from the start. As the War of 1812

approached, however, mutual distrust arose. Local tribesmen left the area but returned after the war and harmonious trade resumed.

During the 1810s, the original families bore more than two dozen children and 20 new families arrived. Joe Terrell, a shoemaker, made footwear for the pioneers and was also the first Justice of the Peace. The first couple married was Jethro Butler and Clarissa Terrell. The first burial ground was on Ashaeel Morgan's farm. It was later abandoned for the present cemetery across the road from the church at the corner of Stoney Ridge and Center Ridge Roads on land that Joel Terrell donated. (Feb. 27, 2022)

### ONLINE FACEBOOK SILENT AUCTION UPDATE

Thank you to all who provided auction items, monetary donations, those who bid on items, shared the auction, and for all the support from beginning to end. Thank you, Diana Goode, for all the time and effort you put into organizing and executing the event. (approx. profit \$825.00)

| Item                       | Donor                         | Winner(s)                                                        |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 18-piece Avon nativity set | Pat Kyle                      | Linda Spayd                                                      |
| Unplugged Brewery basket   | Unplugged Brewery/Tim O'Neill | Carol Scharmann                                                  |
| 3-piece handmade card set  | Becky Williams                | Linda Spayd, Pat Kyle, Krista O'Neill                            |
| Snap-on paint spray gun    | Bob Franks                    | Roy Dreger                                                       |
| Jasper necklace & earrings | Lynne Lipperman               | Linda Spayd                                                      |
| Winter blahs basket        | Krista O'Neill                | Ronda Van Den Bossche                                            |
| 2 shelf cabinet w/ drawers | Becky Williams                | Krista O'Neill                                                   |
| Boyd's Bears liberty bears | Becky Williams                | Ronda Van Den Bossche                                            |
| 21 3/4" wood shelf         | Roy Dreger                    | Karen Veliconia                                                  |
| Snow Buddies picture frame | Pat Kyle                      | Ronda Van Den Bossche                                            |
| Cookie fixins basket       | Barb vonBenken                | Krista O'Neill                                                   |
| Box of 24 buckeyes         | Barb Habecker                 | Diana Goode, Jackie Brodzinski, Barb Zinsmeister, Krista O'Neill |
| Kitchen basket             | Barb vonBenken                | Karen Dreger                                                     |
| 21" wood shelf             | Roy Dreger                    | Krista O'Neill                                                   |
| Turkey platter set         | Marge Baker                   | Krista O'Neill                                                   |
| Crystal earrings           | Lynne Lipperman               | Karen Veliconia                                                  |
| Craft basket               | Karen Dreger                  | Amy Eaton                                                        |
| Lasagna dinner             | Diana Goode                   | Susan Dornan, Linda Spayd                                        |
| Lottery ticket basket      | Linda Matis                   | Shirley Sunyak                                                   |
| Candle trio                | Alan Willcox                  | Amy Eaton                                                        |
| Roasting pan               | Marge Baker                   | Krista O'Neill                                                   |
| Laptop desk                | Bob Franks                    | Barb Zinsmeister                                                 |
| Candle pair                | Alan Willcox                  | Pat Kyle                                                         |
| God's eye ornaments        | Alan Willcox                  | Krista O'Neill                                                   |

| Sun                                                                                                                                                                 | Mon                                                  | Tue                                                                                                                   | Wed                                                                            | Thu                                                                                                                  | Fri                                                             | Sat                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|                                                                                    |                                                      | <b>1</b><br>CE 7 pm<br>Trustees 7 pm<br><br>AA 1 <sup>st</sup> Step 8:30 pm                                           | <b>2</b><br>Ash Wednesday<br>Imposition of<br>Ashes 7 pm<br>(sanctuary)        | <b>3</b><br><br><br>Al-Anon 7:30 pm                                                                                  | <b>4</b>                                                        | <b>5</b><br><br><br>AA Couples 6 pm  |
|                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                      | <b>6</b><br>1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent<br>Outreach 9:30 am<br>Worship 10:30 am<br>Communion<br><br>AA Men 7:30 pm | <b>7</b><br><br><br>AA Women 7 pm                                              | <b>8</b><br>Council 7 pm<br><br><br>AA 1 <sup>st</sup> Step 8:30 pm                                                  | <b>9</b><br>Bell choir 6:30 pm<br>Choir 7:30 pm<br><br>4-H 7 pm | <b>10</b><br><br><br>Al-Anon 7:30 pm |
| <b>13</b><br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent<br>Worship 10:30 am<br> AA Men 7:30 pm | <b>14</b><br><br><br>AA Women 7 pm                   | <b>15</b><br><br><br>AA 1 <sup>st</sup> Step 8:30 pm                                                                  | <b>16</b><br>Newsletter articles<br>due<br>Bell choir 6:30 pm<br>Choir 7:30 pm | <b>17</b> <br><br>Al-Anon 7:30 pm | <b>18</b>                                                       | <b>19</b><br><br><br>AA Couples 6 pm |
| <b>20</b><br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent<br>Worship 10:30 am<br><br>Girl Scouts 3-4 pm<br>AA Men 7:30 pm                                                         | <b>21</b><br>Book Club 7 pm<br><br><br>AA Women 7 pm | <b>22</b><br><br><br>AA 1 <sup>st</sup> Step 8:30 pm                                                                  | <b>23</b><br>Bell choir 6:30 pm<br>Choir 7:30 pm<br><br>4-H 7 pm               | <b>24</b><br><br><br>Al-Anon 7:30 pm                                                                                 | <b>25</b>                                                       | <b>26</b><br><br><br>AA Couples 6 pm |
| <b>27</b> <b>OGHS</b><br>4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent<br>Worship 10:30 am<br>Deacons 11:30 am<br><br>AA Men 7:30 pm                                               | <b>28</b><br><br><br>AA Women 7 pm                   | <b>29</b><br><br><br>AA 1 <sup>st</sup> Step 8:30 pm                                                                  | <b>30</b><br>Bell choir 6:30 pm<br>Choir 7:30 pm                               | <b>31</b><br><br><br>Al-Anon 7:30 pm                                                                                 |                                                                 |                                      |