

# The Messenger

The monthly newsletter of First Congregational Church UCC of North Ridgeville

**July 2022**

**Interim Minister**  
Rev. Tony Clark

**Director, Christian Education**  
Mary Karlovec

**Music Director**  
Barb Habecker

**Moderator**  
Roy Dreger

**Vice-Moderator**  
Nancy Franks

**Co-Chairs, Christian Education**  
Kelsey Styrk  
Renee Dornan

**Chair, Deacons**

**Chair, Outreach**  
Nancy Franks

**Chair, Trustees**  
Paul Wolanski

**Treasurer, Secretary**  
Linda Matis

## *From the Interim Minister*

You've probably heard the word "boundaries"; your profession might have specific boundaries, especially if you are in a service industry, and you may need to have periodic trainings on boundaries. Like that, pastors are required to stay updated on boundary training so that congregations and church members are protected from pastoral malfeasance and the pastor's ministry does not overshadow family and personal time. In the UCC, pastoral boundaries are guided by the [Ministerial Code of Ethics](#) and the [Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers](#). Another resource, [A Sure Foundation](#), which the Council and the Pastor Parish Relations Team have been given, details a congregation's relationship with their pastor, including expectations for ethical and evaluative norms.

Professional ministerial boundaries are held by the pastor to protect parishioners and the congregation from inappropriate relationships. Any time relationships cross into two or more realms of life, it becomes increasingly difficult to determine which role might take precedence. When you hear people talking about wearing many hats, that is an indication that there are multiple roles from many realms at play. The more intimate the overlapping roles are, the more fraught they are in terms of entanglement and emotional or spiritual harm. In particular, when parishioners' and pastors' relationships cross over into friendships, it becomes incredibly painful when the pastor leaves and the friendship must end because the pastoral relationship must end. Of course, there are other inappropriate relationships that include sexual or financial impropriety, with much more serious consequences to the victim and the congregation.

Boundaries recognize that pastor-parishioner relationships include a differential in power or authority. Pastors, like therapists, doctors, and other service providers, are in a professional role of authority, and misuse of that authority can physically, mentally, or



spiritually damage the victim. If the misuse of authority includes secrecy, there is a risk of creating division in a congregation between those who know and those who don't; the two sides may divide over the support and treatment of the pastor as they maneuver termination proceedings or a fitness review.

Pastors, and people in general, are more prone to break boundaries when they are vulnerable, stressed out, or in a place of emotional, spiritual or physical need. From my own personal experience, in one move to a new congregation I needed a tax accountant and in another move I needed a medical professional. Both times I was referred to someone in the congregation, and I felt obliged to engage them against my better judgement. Both of those service providers knew more about my personal life than I was comfortable with parishioners knowing, and there was also the financial enmeshment that comes with service having been provided. Once the dual relationship was established, I felt stuck with my professional providers because pulling out of the provider-client relationships would affect the parishioner-pastor relationships.

Pastors, or any professional, are responsible for maintaining the professional boundaries set by that profession's commonly understood ethics. Parishioners can aid pastors in sticking to boundaries by understanding the nature of dual relationships and by resisting the desire to be closer to the pastor than is appropriate. While part of the work of ministry, in my opinion, is to attend events and celebrations and reflect back to you your theological practice in those events, there is at least the perception of bias when the pastor appears to favor one family over others in the events

they attend. One question to ask when inviting the pastor to a personal or family event is, "Are other church members going to be there?" If there are, then the appearance of favoritism is reduced.

As always, if you would like to engage me in this or any topic, feel free to contact me.

Blessings,  
Pastor Tony

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

Near the end of the school year, Karen and I went to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade concert where our grandson was performing with the orchestra. We had attended the fall concert, their first, and there was such a difference! In fall it was as if everyone were playing their instrument individually. In spring the different instrument sections were being played as part of the whole and they were much more blended. Musically you want the sound to be a blend of instruments or voices. Unless, of course, there is a soloist; but even then, you want the accompanying music to blend.

How do you get this "blending" that I'm referring to? It's simple really. You have to listen to all the other musicians around you. You listen and try to be part of the whole group and not stand apart. You don't necessarily play (or sing) the same note; what you try for is to be in harmony with all the other people.

When I was in school learning to play an instrument, it was at this point where I "got it". It was a revelation, an accomplishment, and, most of all, it was exhilarating. A feeling of euphoria because we were able to actually make music that sounded like, well, music! We were in

harmony with each other and it was a magical feeling, to say the least.

Maybe that's the way it is supposed to be for us as people. Not everyone would be sharing the same thoughts, but we would be listening to each other. While we all have our own opinion, we could sound it in harmony with others. Perhaps this is too much to ask, that people listen to each other and participate in the symphony of life in a kind of harmony. But, perhaps, just perhaps, it is what we are supposed to be doing.

Remember the advertising song that began, "I'd like to teach the world to sing in perfect harmony"? Maybe we should start a little closer to home. Care to join in the music with me? I promise I will try to stay in tune.



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

As this goes to print, Kris, Kurt, Ben, Beth Dornan, Claire and Dahlia Wolanski and hopefully me (as I write this Covid has hit) have returned from an amazing week at Lotts Creek in Kentucky. Everyone will be sharing the adventures with the congregation during worship one Sunday very soon. This trip would not have been possible without the support of this congregation. From all of us, thank you!

On **Friday, July 15 at 7 PM** we will be showing the movie *Wonder* (rescheduled from June) in Fellowship Hall. Bring your

own snacks and drinks and join us in watching the movie that was inspired by the book **Wonder** by RJ Palacio. It was the book that we utilized for Sunday School in the Spring.

On **Sunday, August 21 from 1-3 PM**, CE is sponsoring a **“Welcome to the Neighborhood Event.”**



Post cards are going out to the residents in the new areas of the Hampton Place

subdivision (between Stoney Ridge and Route 83) inviting them to come learn about our church. Many of them are new to our city and we thought this would be a great opportunity to put our best foot forward. We are hoping to have a bounce house, bubbles, ice cream sundaes, tours inside the church and “Blessings of the Backpacks.” We will definitely need extra help and are looking for a tent to put out back to house the ice cream social. If you have any connection for places to get an affordable bounce house or slide from, please let us know. There will be a sign-up sheet to help outside the CE office.

Finally, September will be here before we know it and fall programming will be returning on **September 11**. We are going to **need LOTS OF MANPOWER for Sunday School this year**. If you are willing to teach on a team (four classes each needing two teams) there is a sign-up sheet outside my office. This is an easy way to support the church two times a month with your time and talents.

Just an FYI: Confirmation will be on **September 18** during worship.

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

Welcome to July, the month of celebration of the United States of America, land of the free. With God guiding our actions we must do our part to keep our land free, keep our spirit of hard work and brotherly love alive, give those in need a hand up and those needing a livelihood, a place to work to better themselves. In God we trust. God bless America, the land we love and hold dear.

Thank you for attending our Father's Day brunch! It was wonderful sharing time together over a tasty offering of food. Let's do it again soon.

Our dine and donate fundraiser at Texas Roadhouse went well and everything was delicious! Hope you enjoyed it as much as we did! The fundraiser total will be posted as soon as we receive them and thank you for making it a success. Proceeds will be deposited in the church's general fund.

The special collection for Strengthen the Church brought in \$107.00. Our thanks to you for contributing to the greater UCC's building program in Ohio.

Please remember our shut-ins with a card, call, or visit (after calling). It will brighten their day and your day as well! Love in action!

Matthew Hogue-Smith's ordination is fast approaching (July 10) and Outreach would appreciate a few extra hands to decorate fellowship hall for the reception following the ordination service. Please call Nancy at 440-327-9647 if you can help. Thank you!

Words to live by: "Believe in tomorrow, and let faith guide you through today."

### **Dr. Dornan's Corner – Kurt Dornan**

Wishing everyone a happy and safe Independence Day! Here are some reminders to keep safe:

- ✓ Never give fireworks to children. This includes sparklers. Sparklers burn at a temperature of around 1,200 degrees. That's hot enough to melt metal. They can easily burn and injure a child.
- ✓ Always have a responsible adult supervising activities involving fireworks.
- ✓ Light fireworks in a clear outdoor area, away from trees, buildings, or vehicles.
- ✓ Wear safety glasses or protective eyewear when shooting off fireworks.
- ✓ Don't carry fireworks in your pocket. The friction could set them off.
- ✓ Don't light fireworks in containers, especially metal or glass ones.
- ✓ Stand far away from other people when lighting fireworks. They can backfire or go in the wrong direction.
- ✓ Don't lean over a firework while lighting it. Reach out away from your body to light it.
- ✓ Light one firework at a time. Move back quickly to a safe distance right away.
- ✓ Never point or throw fireworks at other people.
- ✓ Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose nearby in case there is a fire or other mishap.
- ✓ Never relight a "dud" firework that doesn't go off. Douse it in water and throw it in the trash.
- ✓ After fireworks are done burning, douse them in water. Dispose of them in a metal trashcan to prevent a trash fire.



### **Trustees' Turn – Paul Wolanski**

Hello, my family in Christ! The church looked beautiful after the spring clean-up in preparation for the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary open house. A thank you to all who participated in both or either of these two events.

Trustees are continuing to revise hall and sanctuary rental fee structures for funerals, weddings, and parties. Hopefully this will help to supplement our church revenue.

Discussions have taken place as to the removal of the three pine trees at the east end of the front lawn. Two of the three trees are dead or partially dead. Trustees hope to fall the trees without having to expense a tree service company.

Trustees are also continuing to pursue estimates and long term preparation for some water proofing and repairs of the corner of one of the basement rooms. There has been water damage in the past, although at present the room has been dry.



### **Women's Book Club**

Upcoming books are as follows. All gatherings are at the church at 7 pm unless noted. (If it is hot, we will meet in the sanctuary.)

**July 18:** Magic Hour by Kristen Hannah

**August 15:** The Book Woman's Daughter: A Novel by Kim Michele Richardson

**September 19:** The Water Keeper by Charles Martin (on Krista's patio room at 6:30 pm BYOB and snack to share)

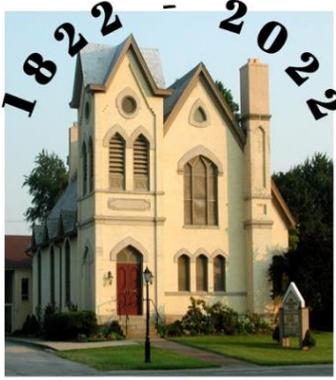
- 7/6 Joan Bier
- 7/6 Dahlia Wolanski
- 7/14 Bob Karlovec
- 7/15 Jen Anderson
- 7/15 Edie Phillips
- 7/18 Liam Styrt
- 7/22 Anita Packard
- 7/24 Barb Habecker
- 7/25 Diana Goode
- 7/25 Andrea Summer



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



- Alan Willcox
- Karen Farmer
- Mike Wysocky
- Melissa Wysocky



**First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ**  
*Sharing Faith, Hope and Love with all  
for 200 years*

## **▲ Moment in History #7**

After 12 years of worshipping in their homes, with Joel Terrell usually leading, a church was born. The first church was formed on December 20, 1822, with Rev. Dr. Alfred H. Betts of Brownhelm and Rev. Lot R. Sullivan officiating in its organization. The people assembled at the schoolhouse located on the southwest corner of what are now Rts. 83 and 20. The schoolhouse was found to be too small to accommodate the large number that came together so the meeting was moved to the barn of Joseph Humphrey on the opposite side of the road. A sermon appropriate to the occasion was delivered by Rev. Dr. Betts. The church was given the name "First Presbyterian Church of Ridgeville." The first members were Chester Beebe, his wife Marcia, Hezekiah Case, Samuel Eldred, Seth R. Alcott, and Lucinda Cahoon. The following Sabbath Mrs. Hezekiah Case, Marcus Case, his wife Lora, and Ora Case were received as members. On May 15, 1823, Ebenezer Porter and his wife Eunice became members, and on August 31, 1823, Jeremiah Womren and Lydia Morgan also became members.

All members adopted a covenant or code of religious discipline. These matters were not taken lightly. There were multiple cases of excommunication and public humiliation. Article 7 of the Covenant declared, "This church considers collecting of hay or grain on the Sabbath, attending to any part of the business of making sugar, visiting friends except in case of sickness, and prosecution of journeys on that day without special necessity, a violation of Christian duty." For three years, from 1822-1825 services were conducted by missionaries or pastors from churches of the surrounding area. When the schoolhouse where the first meetings

were held burned down in 1825, the congregation moved to another schoolhouse. This was the year the church obtained its first resident pastor, the Rev. B.W. Lathrop, who was installed on June 25, 1825. The Rev. John Monteith replaced Rev. Lathrop in 1832 and remained until 1835. It was about this time that the church built its first log meeting house on the site of what is now the Old Town Hall on Center Ridge Road.

## **▲ Moment in History #8**

When we left off in 1835 the church was struggling. During the next six years the congregation depended upon "supply" pastors and limped along under adverse conditions. By 1840 it had become almost extinct; to quote the record, "the cause of Christ was very low". The affairs of the church were conducted in a loose manner and at least part of the time its record was not very regularly kept.

Into this scene of despair came a rescuer in February of 1841 in the person of D.C. White, a New Jersey layman who began preaching to the faltering congregation. Under Mr. White's leadership the record says, "the church seemed somewhat resuscitated and agreed to renounce its creed or articles of faith and covenant and take the simple word of God, as reported in the Bible, as its only rule of faith and practice."

An attempt was made to heal some of the differences among the brethren and a return of those who had strayed. "Although some cases of discipline existed", the record says, "the past should be forgotten and each member should receive his brother, and for the future, walk in love, one with another." By a unanimous vote of its 55 members, D.C. White was invited to become pastor of the church. He accepted, and on September 1, 1841, was ordained and installed by a committee of "The Lorain County Association". The Reverend Charles G. Finney of Oberlin preached the sermon at the ceremony, which was held in Levi Terrell's orchard, the log house being too small for the assembled crowd.

Shortly thereafter the church became "The First Congregational Church and Society of North Ridgeville". The Reverend Mr. White remained as pastor until 1848.

## **A Moment in History #9**

In 1888 a local chapter of The Christian Endeavor Society was organized in our church. This was a youth group, a forerunner of the Pilgrim Fellowship group. Few records are available until 1916. In that year some names of members were Doris Terrell, Ruth Winckles, Louise Fitts, Ivah Hadaway, and C. Gilder. The Society flourished in our church for more than 37 years. According to church records held at the Western Reserve Historical Society, in 1910 the Christian Endeavor Society seemed quite busy. They had many committees such as Social Committee, Outlook Committee (which gave money for church expenses), Missionary Committee (which had missionary speakers and sent money to Bohemia), music, prayer, and entertainment committees as well as others. In 1913 for its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary former members were invited to a family dinner and 39 attended. In 1915 they were invited by the YMCA of Avon to give their play *The Country Fair* in Saint Mary's Hall in Avon. Also in 1915, they sold cookbooks and bought cushions for the church.

Some background for the Society: The United Society of Christian Endeavor began February 2, 1881, by Dr. Francis E. Clark, pastor of Williston Congregational Church in Portland, Maine. He had a great concern for youth who made a clear decision to accept Christ but were not involved in church activities. He developed an idea to use in guiding youth. At first his wife rejected it, believing it to require too much commitment but later changed her mind, expressing that the Christian life requires this level of commitment and young people should be challenged to live to this standard. The Christian Endeavor Society grew to be a world-wide ministry for young people and is now known as the International Society of Christian Endeavor. It is still active today and has its headquarters in Columbus, Ohio.

## **A Moment in History #10**

From The History of the Ladies Benevolent Society of North Ridgeville Congregational Church written by Mrs. E. Ames, "The Society was organized at the home of Mrs. Joel Terrell, February 1, 1849." The Constitution began, "Whereas we are bound to promote the extension of science, morality and the

welfare of humanity, and especially to be liberal to the poor" and so it continued on. One of the 13 articles read "Any lady may become a member by subscribing to this Constitution and paying annually 12 ½ cents, and gentlemen by paying \$.25". The list of members contained the names of 47 ladies and 23 gentlemen. The Society held many fairs and suppers making as much as \$225.00. The first fair was held in the hall of the Terrell house. There was a large attendance, many coming from out of town. The amount made at this first fair was used to purchase a melodeon for the church. In 1850 the Society purchased and circulated books for a library. When the new church was completed in 1876, LBS had the money to furnish it.

From the LBS minutes of the year 1946:  
*"A large box of food packed for the needy. Watched missionary film on Chinese, Japanese and Indians. Box of food packed for Greek family. Ruth Haehl reported that they found a pottery to buy dishes from and ordered set for 100. 4 boxes sent for war relief. Bought clothing for children 1-4 years of age for YWCA. Ordered 50 new folding chairs. Watched missionary film on race question. \$25 to Schaffler College\* and food for freedom train."*

In 1950 a member, Mrs. Haehl, asked each member to see that all their friends registered to vote. She urged all to vote early and explained the ballot and how to write in names of judges.

The LBS was contacted by various companies to sell their products, such as magazines, chocolate, rust remover, extracts, and more. The LBS did much good work for the church and the greater community for many years.

*\*Schaffler College in Cleveland was founded in 1886 for Bohemian immigrants who were interested in social or religious work.*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 AA Women 9 am AA Couples 6 pm
3 Worship 10:30 am Communion  AA Men 7:30 pm	4 OFFICE CLOSED  AA Women 7 pm	5 CE 7 pm Trustees 7 pm  AA 1 <sup>st</sup> Step 8:30 pm	6  4-H 7 pm	7  AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 7:30 pm	8	9  AA Women 9 am AA Couples 6 pm
10 Outreach 9 am Worship 10:30 am Matthew Hogue-Smith ordination svc. & reception 3 pm  AA Men 7:30 pm	11  AA Women 7 pm	12 Linda off – jury duty Council 7 pm  AA 1 <sup>st</sup> Step 8:30 pm	13 Linda off? – jury duty  4-H 7 pm	14 Linda off? – jury duty  AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 7:30 pm	15 “Wonder” movie 7 pm	16 Newsletter articles due  AA Women 9 am AA Couples 6 pm
17 Worship 10:30 am  AA Men 7:30 pm	18  AA Women 7 pm	19  AA 1 <sup>st</sup> Step 8:30 pm	20 Linda off? – jury duty  4-H 7 pm	21 Linda off? – jury duty  AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 7:30 pm	22	23  AA Women 9 am AA Couples 6 pm
24 Worship 10:30 am  AA Men 7:30 pm	25  AA Women 7 pm	26  AA 1 <sup>st</sup> Step 8:30 pm	27 Linda off? – jury duty  4-H 7 pm	28 Linda off? – jury duty  AA Women 6 pm Al-Anon 7:30 pm	29	30  AA Women 9 am AA Couples 6 pm
31 Worship 10:30 am Deacons 11:30 am  AA Men 7:30 pm						



The Living Water Association & The Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ

invite you to join in celebrating the Ordination into Christian Ministry of

*Matthew Hogue-Smith, M.A*

Sunday, July 10 @ 3pm

First Congregational Church  
36363 Center Ridge Rd, North Ridgeville, OH 44039

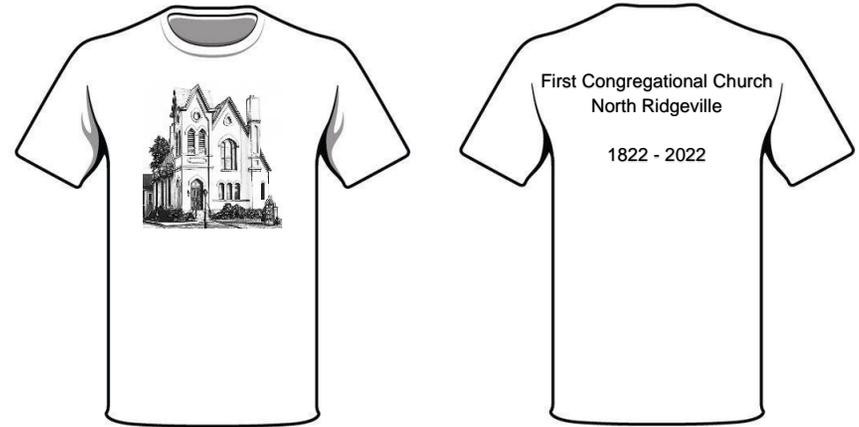
Reception to follow the service.  
Clergy and MIDS are invited to robe for service. Liturgy color is red.

**HALL  
FOR RENT**

\$60/hr

**(440) 327-2921**

## First Congregational Church T-Shirts



Shirts will be light blue with navy writing on the back.

Adult shirts are \$12 ea; add \$2 ea for 2 XL  
Youth shirts are \$10 ea

Orders must be placed by July 15 with delivery in August.  
Enter the number of shirts you are ordering below the size.

ADULT SIZES - \$12 ea				
Small	Medium	Large	XL	2XL (+\$2)

YOUTH SIZES - \$10 ea		
Small	Medium	Large

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

You may pay at the time of ordering or pick up.  
Make checks payable to First Congregational Church