

The Messenger

The monthly newsletter of First Congregational Church UCC of North Ridgeville

June 2024

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LOVE IS LOUDER
Love Your Neighbor **OUT LOUD**

From the Pastor – Pastor Kearstin (she/her)

Hello, sweet congregation! I'm writing this month's article from a mentorship retreat in Pottsboro, Texas. Each spring and fall, a group of recent graduates from my seminary gathers to reflect on our ministry, practice intentional rest, and continue learning from professors and local faith leaders. One of the themes that we continue to circle back to this time is that there are a variety of ways to be a Christian.

Some of us practice our faith in our profession — our paid work is in alignment with our Christian values and is a way to co-create a better world. Others practice faith in daily life — paying forward a coffee at the cafe or volunteering with the PTA to curate a more just learning environment for our children.

If we let it, our faith can seep into every aspect of our lives. It can inform the media we consume, the organizations we donate to, the businesses we frequent, the ways we practice self-care, and even the ways we respond to frustrating situations.

Each of us live out our Christian faith differently, and what a blessing that is! In a world that pulls us in so many competing directions, I hope that you might find creative ways to embody your faith this summer season. May everything that you do be a ministry, beloved!

Moderator's Moment – Kris Dornan

Blessings to you, church family! As we navigate the currents of life, it is essential to pause, reflect, and find solace in our shared spiritual journey. In this month's Moderator Moment, I invite you to join me in exploring the significance of nurturing our souls and strengthening our bonds as a community.

Embracing Spiritual Nourishment: Just as we nourish our bodies with food, our souls require sustenance to thrive. Through prayer, meditation, scripture, and fellowship we can cultivate a deep

connection with the divine and find peace amidst life's challenges. Let us commit to setting aside time each day for spiritual nourishment, knowing that it rejuvenates our spirits and guides us on our path.

Unity in Diversity: Our congregation is a tapestry of diverse backgrounds, experiences, and beliefs. Embracing this diversity enriches our community and fosters a culture of inclusion and understanding. Let us celebrate our differences and find strength in our unity, knowing that we are bound together by our shared faith and commitment to love and serve one another.

Stewardship of Faith: As stewards of our faith, we are called to nurture and safeguard the values and teachings that define us as a congregation. Let us cherish our heritage while also embracing change and innovation, knowing that our faith is a living, breathing entity that evolves with the times. Through our actions and words, may we uphold the principles of love, compassion, and justice that lie at the heart of our beliefs.

Looking Ahead: As we journey together in faith, let us remain steadfast in our commitment to each other and to our shared mission. Let us continue to seek opportunities for growth, learning, and service, knowing that our collective efforts have the power to transform lives and communities.

In closing, I am grateful for each of you and the unique gifts you bring to our congregation. May we continue to walk hand in hand, guided by the light of our faith, as we strive to make a difference in the world.

Let your *light* shine.

♡ Matthew 5:16 ♡

Christian Education Corner – Mary Karlovec

June is here and for many this means “break time!” With this in mind and last year’s lack of interest/attendance, the Board of Christian Education has decided not to offer summer Sunday school June through Labor Day weekend this year. There will be childcare for those 5 years and younger after the young persons’ time in worship; and for those above age 5, packets will be available in the front pew for students to work on.

WE ARE IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS to oversee the nursery/childcare room this summer! If you are not interested in serving on a church board, here is a perfect way to use your time and talents! This is not a weekly commitment but if four people would be willing to volunteer once a month, that would be a big help. The CE Board has seven members, most of whom teach Sunday School as well as serve on the board. Therefore we do not have the resources to cover the nursery too. Since last September, they have stepped up to the plate and covered the nursery on the Sundays they were not teaching so they have not had the opportunity to worship in the sanctuary in many months. We do not want to send the wrong message to visitors that their little ones are not important, so **won't you please volunteer?**

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who donated to our May clangy change offering. We were able to purchase \$134 worth of peanut butter and jelly for Community Care. *The June clangy change offering will not be collected until June 9.* The June change collected will go with the youth to Lotts Creek to provide funds to do many of the projects they will work on while they are there.

Another big THANK YOU to everyone who supported our Junk in a Trunk event on May 18. We raised almost \$500 to help with funding the youth and adults going to Lotts Creek. Shout outs go to Nancy Findlay, Linda Matis, Ryan and Holly Hengartner, Sandy Chalkwater, Brian Zinsmeister and Pastor Kearstin for all of their help that day. I could not have done it without you!

Forty-six of our church “ladies and they-dies,” along with many family and friends had a delightful tea at Miss Molly’s Tea Room in Medina on May 5. Laughter, wonderful food, and conversations were had



by all. A big hit was the “plate on the head” game! Truly a sight to behold. We received many compliments from the owner and wait staff about our group. Hopefully we can make this a yearly event!

Finally, I will be off the grid beginning June 12 for approximately four weeks as this summer brings a total right hip replacement if I get clearance from my surgeon from last year’s neck surgery. I am struggling mentally and emotionally with having to do another extensive surgery and miss my second mission trip but as many of you have witnessed, walking is not my strong suit at the present time. Hopefully I will be walking again with pep in my step by the end of July!

Happy Father’s Day to all of our fathers and those who are a role model to those without a father!

Outreach Committee News – Karen Farmer

Procrastination is a thief of time and has stolen too much of my time over the years. How can we avoid putting off that

which needs to be done? Has anybody ever served God or others in doing things *tomorrow*? It is what we do today that counts—even the small things—because *if we do one small thing for someone somewhere, we help everyone everywhere.*

The Outreach Committee is doing many small things this month to make a difference in our community and beyond. We have updated our homebound list and continue to send cards monthly to those in our church who are unable to attend services. We have a new family we are sponsoring through Community Care and provided birthday party items and a gift card for one child’s 8th birthday in May.

We voted to give Community Care an extra \$200 in June for its summer lunch program, in addition to the \$100 we contribute monthly. There is a bin and a list of items requested by Community Care in the Sunday School hallway. Items include cleaning supplies, personal hygiene items, and paper products. Please check to see if there is something on the list that you can contribute to help out. We earmarked \$300 to Christian Ed for the youth mission trip, as well as \$100 to donate directly to the Lotts Creek school.

Our “**Dine to Donate**” event at the Avon Applebee’s is on Wednesday, June 5. Flyers to present at the restaurant for a 15% donation to our church are available at church and in this newsletter. We hope you are able to participate in this event, the proceeds of which will also support the youth mission trip.

The One World Shop wishes to thank all of you for your purchases at its mobile shop here at church to support its work. Your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing totaled \$218.00. We collected in

May for the UCC Strengthen the Church “On Holy Ground” campaign. Among other things, the monies collected support UCC conferences, establishing new churches, and youth ministry.

Whether it’s supporting Community Care, the Lotts Creek youth mission trip, Dine to Donate, or Strengthen the Church, you have the opportunity to do something *today* that counts. Is God calling you? Walk toward Him on the street of “*Today!*”

Deacons’ Desk – Paula Dudek

The Deacons have been busy updating the church’s membership list, preparing and serving communion, and making sure the sanctuary is ready for the service. (We could always use more help on Deacons. If interested in serving on the board, please contact the office or Pastor Kearstin.)

Pastor Kearstin’s installation service will be on June 30 at 3:00 p.m. and the Deacons will be hosting a reception afterwards.

With the weather getting nice there are so many more things we have to do and want to do. If you’re feeling overwhelmed, keep Psalm 23 in mind: *The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.*

Trustees’ Turn – Roy Dreger

If you read last month’s column then you are pretty much up to speed on where we stand as regards getting quotes for our proposed capital campaign. It seems harder than it should be to get the responses we need to finalize plans. We hope to have all the information we need to start the campaign in July, but that is entirely dependent on companies getting back to us. Even with phone calls for updates, responses are slow in coming.

There are a few things that we have been able to accomplish. It was decided to try to find a way to keep the rear entrance under the overhang lit during the night hours. We need to investigate the current light fixture to see how best to accomplish that. Also, we approved the purchase of an air conditioner for the pastor’s office (the window is not your common double-hung style and is an unusual size). We are changing pest control providers which will save the church a few hundred dollars every year; and, while this is not a large sum, every dollar counts!

The annual “Spring Clean-Up” day is coming on June 8 so gather your shovels and rakes and other items of destruction and join us beginning at 9:00 am as we work to beautify the grounds. As the late Bob Gilder, a long-time member of the church, once said “Make the old girl look good!” If you can’t work outdoors, I’m sure there are things that can be found to do inside.

As always, the Trustees are grateful to the congregation for their faithful financial support. Thank you!

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 6/3 Madeleine Packard
- 6/5 Lynne Petroff
- 6/5 Stephanie Matis
- 6/9 Millie Gilly
- 6/15 Liz Wolanski
- 6/16 Barb Zinsmeister
- 6/17 Ben Dornan
- 6/19 Carol Scharmman
- 6/29 Charlotte Dornan

- 6/2 Dale & Becky Williams
- 6/21 John & Lynne Petroff
- 6/23 Greg & Paula Dudek
- 6/27 Roy & Karen Dreger

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**Women's Book Club:** All gatherings are at the church at 7 pm unless noted.

**June 17:** Hello Beautiful by Ann Napolitano

**July 15:** The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride

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Join us in representing our church in the **Pride in the CLE Parade** on June 1 in downtown Cleveland. The parade kicks off at 11 am from Public Square!

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## Greeters

- 6/2 Diana Goode, Karen Farmer
- 6/9 Paula Dudek, Vonnie Packard
- 6/16 Paul Wolanski, Lynne Petroff
- 6/23 Regenia Comerford, Diana Goode
- 6/30 Linda Matis, Paula Dudek

If you would like to be added to the greeter rotation, please contact the church office.

## Ladies & They-dies Tea



| Sun                                                                                                                                                           | Mon                                                             | Tues                                                 | Weds                          | Thurs                                                 | Fri                                                                                                         | Sat                                                                                            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                               |                                                                 |                                                      |                               |                                                       | Pastor Kearstin on vacation 5/31 – 6/4                                                                      | <b>1</b><br><b>Pride in the CLE parade 11 am</b><br><br>AA Women 9 am<br>Couples Recovery 6 pm |
|                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                 |                                                      |                               |                                                       | <b>2</b><br><b>Outreach 9 am</b><br><b>Worship 10:30 am</b><br><b>Fellowship hour</b><br><br>AA Men 7:30 pm | <b>3</b><br><br><br>AA Women 7 pm                                                              |
| <b>9</b><br><b>Worship 10:30 am</b><br><b>Communion</b><br><b>Fellowship hour</b><br><b>Council Retreat 1-4 pm</b><br><br>AA Men 7:30 pm                      | <b>10</b><br><b>Council 7 pm</b><br><br>AA Women 7 pm           | <b>11</b><br><br><br>AA 1 <sup>st</sup> Step 8:30 pm | <b>12</b><br><br><br>4-H 7 pm | <b>13</b><br><br><br>AA Women 6 pm<br>Al-Anon 7:30 pm | <b>14</b><br><br><br>AA Women 9 am<br>Couples Recovery 6 pm                                                 |                                                                                                |
| <b>16</b><br><b>Father's Day</b><br><b>Worship 10:30 am</b><br><b>Fellowship hour</b><br><b>Newsletter articles due</b><br><br>AA Men 7:30 pm                 | <b>17</b><br><b>Women's book club 7 pm</b><br><br>AA Women 7 pm | <b>18</b><br><br><br>AA 1 <sup>st</sup> Step 8:30 pm | <b>19</b><br><br><br>4-H 7 pm | <b>20</b><br><br><br>AA Women 6 pm<br>Al-Anon 7:30 pm | <b>21</b><br><br><br>AA Women 9 am<br>Couples Recovery 6 pm                                                 |                                                                                                |
| <b>23</b><br><b>Worship 10:30 am</b><br><b>Fellowship hour</b><br><br>AA Men 7:30 pm                                                                          | <b>24</b><br><br><br>AA Women 7 pm                              | <b>25</b><br><br><br>AA 1 <sup>st</sup> Step 8:30 pm | <b>26</b><br><br><br>4-H 7 pm | <b>27</b><br><br><br>AA Women 6 pm<br>Al-Anon 7:30 pm | <b>28</b><br><br><br>AA Women 9 am<br>Couples Recovery 6 pm                                                 |                                                                                                |
| <b>30</b><br><b>Worship 10:30 am</b><br><b>Fellowship hour</b><br><b>Deacons 11:30 am</b><br><b>Pr. Kearstin Installation Svc. 3 pm</b><br><br>AA Men 7:30 pm | Lotts Creek mission trip 6/21 – 6/28                            |                                                      |                               |                                                       |                                                                                                             |                                                                                                |





Junk in the Trunk



Pastor Kearstin greeting hungry guests with a smile



Grillmaster Ryan

**Dining to DONATE**  
**Applebee's**  
 GRILL + BAR

**APPLEBEE'S WILL DONATE 15% OF YOUR CHECK TO:**

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC**

Date: Wed., June 5, 2024 35916 Detroit Rd.

Time: 11 AM-Close Avon, OH 44011

Present this flyer to your server at time of order

- OR -

Order online at [Applebees.com](https://applebees.com) or through our mobile app and:

- Select location listed above
- Choose your menu items
- At checkout, enter code: **DOINGOOD**
  - A penny will be deducted from your total to allow us to track your order
- Checkout and pickup order at designated time

Looking to add a refreshing cocktail to your To Go order:

- Call-in your order to location listed above
- Present this flyer at pickup (paper copy or digital)

Drink Responsibly

Valid on dine-in and To Go orders, not valid on delivery. Valid at location listed above on scheduled date only. 15% donation excludes tax and gratuity. To Go orders containing alcohol must be called into restaurant, 21 and older.