

The Grapevine

The e-newsletter of Church of the Redeemer UCC

April 2018

Staff Information

Staff Hours and Contact Information

Office Hours M-W 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Th 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
440-331-0834/church@corucc.org

Pastor R. Brooke Baker interim@corucc.org
The Rev. Bob Richardson brich948@gmail.com
Margaret Borrelli margaret@corucc.org
Gayle Donahue donahuepn@gmail.com
Carol Peddie cpsongbird@aol.com
Jason Aquila jason.aquila@gmail.com
Barb Powell barb@corucc.org



Church of the Redeemer United Church of Christ
is an Open and Affirming and Just Peace Congregation.
All are Welcome!

In this Issue:

- * Reflections from Pastor R. Brooke Baker and the the Rev. Bob Richardson
- * Children and Youth News
- * NEW! "Ruth's Corner" – Redeemer news collected by Ruth Michelich
- * Monthly Devotional
- * Meeting and Event Updates
- * Opportunities for spiritual growth
- * Staff columns
- * And much more

Coming Events and Information

Redeemer Thursday Evening Gathering!

The next Thursday evening dinner will be **April 19 at 5 p.m. at the Berea Union Depot Tavern** (formerly known as The Depot and, before that,



Pufferbelly), 30 Depot Street in Berea.

Sign up in the Gathering Room for this festive evening!



Spaghetti Dinner!

Andrew Hille's Boy Scout Troop will host a spaghetti dinner **Saturday, April 14, from 4-8 p.m. at John Knox Presbyterian Church** (25200 Lorain, North Olmsted).

Advance tickets are \$8 each, \$10 at the door. Scouts in uniform are half off! There will be basketball raffles and more, plus a huge 50/50 raffle.

See Andrew or Melissa Hille for tickets, or contact [Melissa](#); or call her at 440-331-4231.

Ruth M.'s Corner: News From Around Redeemer

AFS STUDENT FROM INDONESIA If you are lucky, you have met Lha Lha, a very special AFS student from Indonesia who is staying with the Kvasnicka family this school year!

THANKS, VOLUNTEERS! On March 10, 21 of us (MANY young people) made cinnamon rolls to be sold and ready for Easter. Thank you!

HARD WORKS MAKE A CLEAN CHURCH! There were 12 hard-working people who joined together to help with the church cleanup on March 3. They all enjoyed Mary Kanzeg's delicious sloppy jo sandwiches to top off the day. Thanks, everybody!

Introduction to Massage: A Class for Beginners

Everyone loves massage! Learn to share this rewarding and healthful experience with your friends and family.

Taught by our own Albert Svetle! Orientation class is Saturday, April 7, 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Registration for the class will follow orientation.

- * Quick 5-minute stress relief techniques
- * Professional techniques for giving a massage without getting tired
- * Stay fully clothed and comfortably seated
- * Work standing or seated ... without strain on your knees and back
- * No special equipment or massage oil

Anytime, anywhere ... Enjoy these life-enhancing benefits!

Questions? Ask Albert!



Chair Yoga

Chair Yoga classes are on Mondays at 11:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Yoga is healthy, relaxing, rejuvenating ... and FUN!
You know you want to join in!

Namaste!

Prayer List Information Update

The Sunday bulletin prayer list is cleaned out approximately every four weeks. If you wish to have someone remain on the current list, please notify Emma Kozar (440-899-6221).

Opportunities to Grow

Favorite Bible Stories Bible Study

The Wednesday Bible Study will resume in April.

Men's Spiritual Journey Discussion Group

This group meets the second Sunday of each month at 8:45 a.m. Next meeting: April 8 in the Lounge.

Science and Religion Discussion Group

The Science and Religion Group, led by [Jim Stone](#), meets the third Sunday of the month after worship in the lounge.

Opportunities to Serve

April In-Gathering: April Showers!



This month, we are hoping to collect a deluge of pasta and sauce! Thanks in advance for giving generously!

April Offering: Crossroad Child and Family Services and United Church Homes

This month, the offering will benefit long-time Redeemer partners Crossroad Child and Family Services and United Church Homes, both part of the UCC's Council for Health and Human Service Ministries.

Crossroad is a not-for-profit treatment provider for emotionally troubled children and

their families. Behind that simple description is a long list of therapy, education, and family support services provided both to children who live on our campus and to those we work with in the community.

The vision of United Church Homes is to create abundant life in community. As a national leader in senior living services, United Church Homes has intentionally grown its mission and ministry in areas that enable it to address the needs of vulnerable and diverse populations.

[Read a story](#) about one of the United Church Homes communities in Sandusky.

[Read a story](#) about Crossroad's new Academy to help students who've suffered trauma.

Thank you for giving generously!

Children and Youth

Children and Youth News

YOUTH AND CHILDREN IN SERVICE TO OTHERS

This past month, youth and children helped make up the 21 volunteers who gathered to make our holiday cinnamon rolls.



Our children and youth met for a Pre-Easter Service day where they filled eggs with candy for the Community Meal, wrote out cards to send to Shut-ins, and created a little takeaway for those who attend on Easter.



A Message from Pastor Brooke



Greetings from your new Interim Pastor for Worship and Pastoral Care!

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve with you at Church of the Redeemer. Although I am not a native Cleveland-er, after 25 years, the Cleveland area is definitely home. I have lived on both the east side and west sides of Cleveland and have traveled most of Northeast Ohio while working for Hospice of the Western Reserve. Although I grew up in Nebraska, I have come to love the water of Lake Erie and the beautiful trees.

I began my seminary experience in the early 2000s at Ashland Theological Seminary in Ashland, Ohio, and am happy to finally be reaching the end of that long journey at Lexington Theological Seminary in Lexington, Kentucky. I am a musician, playing piano, tenor saxophone through college, guitar, and I sing. Sometime ask me about one of my most exciting places I got to sing. My spouse and I live in Lakewood and enjoy the walkability of that community. We enjoy Edgewater, the solstice steps at Lakewood Park, and time spent on our big front porch in the summer.

I appreciate that you all have been willing to take a risk on yet another pastor. You have such a rich history of longevity in your pastors, that you all must be experiencing a bit of whiplash. I hope that my time here allows you to heal and prepare you for whoever God is calling to this position. I believe that God has called us together for this time and that we will find ways to live together in the ways that Jesus has shown us.

Please be patient with me as I learn – and probably re-learn – your names. I look forward to hearing your stories and sharing with you in worship.

*Blessings,
Pastor Brooke*

A Message from the Rev. Bob Richardson



Easter Greetings, Everyone!

As the song goes, "Every morning is Easter morning from now on." Wait. Every morning? Yep! We are after all Easter people who live each day in the light of the resurrection of our Lord. Every morning is greeted with joy and wonder as God's presence in our lives and in our world is recognized and embraced. Each day gives us a new opportunity to go and share the wonder of resurrection present in each of our lives, claiming anew the way that God is at work in each one of us, bringing forth new life, filling us with hope, and granting us grace for all that will come our way. Yes, "every morning is Easter morning." All that is left is for us to live it - of which there are many opportunities at Redeemer.

As the pastoral transition continues, you've endured a transition within the transition – from Jim to Brooke as your Interim for Worship and Pastoral Care – a transition that was unseen a few months ago, and undoubtedly unwelcome by most. But now that it has occurred, hopefully you're seeing the wonder of resurrection and new life coming forth. Please understand me. There was nothing wrong with Jim and his work. But being called away to tend to family concerns, while being an unwanted ending, has given way to new life in Brooke's arrival and the realization of the wonder of the gifts she brings. New life coming from, if not death, certainly an ending. I hope this gives rise to the hope of what is to come when the pastoral transition is complete.

Speaking of which – the work of resurrection to new life continues on Sunday, April 8, when I'll be at the church from 3 to 6 in the afternoon to continue conversations with anyone who wants to discuss any aspect of the past as we work our way forward to living into the new life of resurrection. This is your time, set aside for however it will be beneficial to you, your faith, and continued involvement at Redeemer.

Don't forget to keep the search committee in your prayers – along with that person God is preparing to serve as your next pastor.

Yes, every morning is Easter morning. All that is left for us is to live it. How are you living out the reality of the resurrection in your life?

Grace & Peace to all.

*Bob Richardson
Interim for Transition and Administration*

A Minute with Margaret



The website for the United Methodist Church tells us this about where we are on the Liturgical Calendar." Easter for Christians is not just one day, but rather a 50-day period. The season of Easter, or Eastertide, begins at sunset on the eve of Easter and ends on Pentecost, the day we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church (see Acts 2).

Easter is also more than just an extended celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. In the early church, Lent was a season for new converts to learn about the faith and prepare for baptism on Easter Sunday. The initial purpose of the 50-day Easter season was to continue the faith formation of new Christians.

Today, this extended season gives us time to rejoice and experience what it means when we say Christ is risen. It's the season when we remember our baptisms and how through this sacrament we are, according to the liturgy, "incorporated into Christ's mighty acts of salvation." As "Easter people," we also celebrate and ponder the birth of the Church and gifts of the Spirit (Pentecost), and how we are to live as faithful disciples of Christ"

Lacy Clark Ellman of asacredjourney.net shares –

The Season of Easter is about celebrating Life. It's about the new life that Christ brings, yes. But it's also about celebrating the little things that bring us life each day because they, too, lead us to Life. These glimpses of the Sacred can teach us about the Divine each day if we are open to the invitation and learn to pay holy

attention.

You can mark the abundance of the Easter season by choosing to celebrate Life every day, transforming what often seems ordinary or goes unnoticed into a spiritual practice.

Be intentional and select specific ways from this list or one of your own to celebrate Life this Easter season:

1. Sit outside in the sun.
2. Plant something that will provide nourishment in the season ahead.
3. Add some color to your living spaces.
4. Go on daily walks , noticing how spring (or autumn, for those Down Under) continues to unfold each day.
5. Buy fresh flowers-just because!
6. Keep a gratitude journal.
7. Set aside time each day to pursue an activity that brings you life.
8. Practice saying "no" to things that drain you.
9. Share a meal with good friends.
10. Catch up with an old friend with whom you've lost touch.
11. Practice the examen each evening, noticing what brings life and what takes it away.
12. Feed the birds.
13. Talk to your children about what's bringing them life and then join them in their play.
14. Make a playlist of songs that bring you joy.
15. Practice sabbath , devoting an entire day each week to the celebration of life.
16. Collect images that stir your soul on a vision board.
17. Eat dessert first!
18. Find creative ways to liven up your daily tasks.
19. Give to an organization that is bringing life to others.
20. Keep a bottle of champagne on hand to raise a toast at a moment's notice.
21. Cuddle with your pet.
22. Check something off of your bucket list.
23. Write down a list of things that bring you life for when you need a boost.
24. Take a day off work to instead go slowly and savor.
25. Share with someone the areas in which you see them come to life

*Blessings,
Margaret*

A Musical Note from Carol



PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS! We have two upcoming musical events scheduled for the month of May:

The Sharon Signers, under the direction of Cory Svette, will present a concert featuring music from "Beauty and the Beast" on **Saturday, May 5, at 6 p.m.** in the church sanctuary. Please come and support these inspiring young people.

The Redeemer Chancel Choir will be presenting a **Spring Concert , FEELIN' THE LOVE, on Sunday, May 20, at 3 p.m.** in the church sanctuary. You will hear many favorite love songs including: "What the World Needs Now is Love," "It Had to be You," "Where is Love," "The

Nearness of You," "When I Fall in Love," "What I Did For Love," . . . and many more!

Thank you all for your continued prayers and support of our music ministry.

*Blessings to all,
Carol Peddie
Director of Music*

A Message from Nurse Gayle -- Vision and Nutrition



It seems appropriate that this year National Public Health Awareness Week immediately follows Easter. Jesus' healing of individuals and teachings in community were an integral part of his ministry. Jesus taught us to care for the whole person, body, mind and spirit. Jesus cared for the whole community, their health and relationships.

The plan for National Public Health Week 2018 is subtitled "Changing Our Future Together." The daily themes you will see in the news address risk factors of poor health and disease risk for individuals and community. I am sure the daily themes will not surprise you and do reflect needs we see in the news daily: behavioral health, communicable disease, environmental health, injury and violence prevention; and finally, advocating for everyone's right to a healthy life. All are themes addressed in the Bible. As you enter this Eastertide, consider how you can model Jesus teaching and make a difference by caring for yourself and our community.

Learn more about National Public health week at www.nphw.org/nphw-2018 or see the Health Ministry bulletin-board.

Senior Living Tours and Brown Bag Lunch are a great opportunity to learn what's happening in the world of seniors, enjoy delightful fellowship and have a terrific lunch.

April 18 visit to Wesleyan Village in Elyria. The van pick up will be in the CORUCC parking lot at 10:20 a.m.; and return approximately 2 p.m. First stop will be Wesleyan Meadows, with tours of two model homes. We will move onto Wesleyan Village for lunch and tour of patio homes, independent apartment and assisted living apartment. **Please RSVP to church office or sign up on bulletin board by Sunday, April 15.**

May 3 visit Concorde Reserve in Westlake. At the Concorde Reserve, Lutheran Home, we will tour the assisted living and view the design boards for the independent living villas scheduled to open in summer 2019. The Concorde Reserve van will pick us up in the CORUCC parking lot at 11 a.m. and return us at 1:30 p.m. **Please sign up on the bulletin board or leave a message in the church office by Monday April 30.**

Brown Bag Lunch Thursday April 26 noon to 1:00 p.m. in fellowship hall. Bring your lunch and join a great discussion on green burial presented by the Cleveland Memorial Society. We will hear about alternatives to the traditional casket including pod burial, resomation, burlap sack, the eternal reef, and a new burial container to save space in cemeteries. Beverage and desert provided. **Please sign up on bulletin board or leave a message in church office.**

Questions or if you would just like to chat please call me at 440-331-0834 or

*Blessings,
Gayle*

Deadlines and Reminders

Deadlines to remember

Sunday bulletins and screens: If there is a church event you want listed in the Sunday bulletin, please turn in the information and contact name/number to the church office by Monday morning at 10 a.m., or it will not make it into that week's bulletin.

Grapevine: The deadline for getting information into the monthly Grapevine is the third Tuesday of the month. Anything received after that will not make it into that month's Grapevine.

We need YOU to Sign Up!

Sign-up sheets for flowers and the bulletins, are on the main bulletin board in the hallway. The community meal signup is posted there, too.

Please DO remember to sign up as you pass by!

In addition, emails were sent to past liturgists and acolyte families. Please respond by clicking the link in the email and signing up!

Phone Guide

Trying to reach someone at the church? Here's a handy list of extensions:

Worship Times 1
Faith Formation Minister Margaret Borelli 3
Parish Nurse Gayle Donahue 4
Main Office 0

Monthly Devotional

Each issue of the Grapevine will feature a UCC devotional for meditation.

Easter is for You

By Matt Fitzgerald

*Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. --
1Corinthians 15:20*

Mary Magdalene stumbled through the dawn until "Christ is risen" destroyed her faith in the grave. Mary heard it first, early in the morning. Death had been defeated. Not just Christ's, but because of his, hers as well.

How long did it take the news to reach Pontius Pilate? You know he heard it. Whispered as a rumor or hollered by a preacher. "Easter is for you, Pontius Pilate!"

History suggests he didn't believe a word.

Imagine if he had.

Pilate could have changed. Easter could have healed whatever demon drove him. Why keep a death grip on power when you've been handed eternity? Pilate could have been transformed.

He had his chance. And he kept his faith in the grave. It's too late for him.

But not for you. Will Easter change you?

You could listen to wounded people tell their stories long after boredom has set in. You could let harried young parents go before you at the grocery store. Only a fool wants to rush through eternity. You could forgive. Forever is far too long to bear a grudge. You could call your loved ones from the office, pull your children out of school for a day at the zoo, stare at the sky for 45 minutes without moving, letting your soul become coordinated to the rhythm of spring breeze, blue sky, early daffodil.

You could go deeper, let down all of your defenses, take off all your armor. You don't need it anymore. Death itself has been defeated. Breathe deep. Live easy. Take a step toward heaven. Not by dying, but by realizing that death has been destroyed. Eternity has just begun. Christ is risen! Not as an isolated miracle, but as the first of many. Get ready. You might be next.

Prayer

Thank you God! We don't understand Easter, but we grab ahold of it anyhow, rejoicing, unnerved and grateful as you lift us up with Jesus.

About the Author

Matt Fitzgerald is the Senior Pastor of St. Pauls United Church of Christ in Chicago. He is the host of *Preachers on Preaching*, a weekly podcast sponsored by *The Christian Century*.

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Joys, & Concerns

April Birthdays

- 6 Anne Hurst
- 9 Irene Twohig
Laura Kvasnicka
- 12 Dave Kavasnicka
Drew Davies
- 13 Emma Kozar
Shannon Widmer
Sarah Scardina
- 14 Mark Lentz
- 15 Lisa Thomas
- 16 Kaylee Elizabeth Toreky
- 17 Katie Chapman
- 18 Brent Miller
Keith Miller

- 19 Bill Schlitter
- 20 Chuck Mealy
- 21 Leola Adams
Chuck Zaugg
- 22 Paul Hartman
- 25 Dave Patzwahl
- 30 Janet Kramer

2018 Consistory Members

Elders:

Dorothy Earl (2016)
2676 West Asplin Drive
Rocky River, 44116
de116rr@ameritech.net
440-821-4515

Bonnie Hawver (2017)
3431 Wooster Road
Rocky River, 44116
bhwvr@aol.com
440-333-2661

Janet Kramer (2017)
18 South Hampton Circle
Rocky River, 44116
jan43051@aol.com
440-333-6816

Diane Kvasnicka (2018)
4644 Prestwick Crossing
Westlake, OH 44145
dianekvasnicka@gmail.com
440-871-6537

Chuck Mealy (2015)
16 South Hampton Circle
Rocky River, 44116
ccmealy@sbcglobal.net
440-333-9658

Johanna Slygh
26234 Lake Road
Bay Village, OH 44140
joie41@aol.com
440-617-9811

Chuck Zaugg (2016)
29639 Schwartz Road
Westlake, 44145
ctzaugg@att.net
440-808-1816

Deacons:

Joel Foote (2018)
21870 Cromwell Ave.
Fairview Park, 44126
joel.foote@gmail.com
440-779-0076

Emily Humphrey (2016)
5974 Gareau Drive
North Olmsted, OH 44070
mle.in.cle@gmail.com
440-666-9789

Jeanne Long (2016)
1842 Columbia Road
Westlake, 44145
jeannelong1965@gmail.com
440-892-3430

Megan Mealy (2017)
29100 Foote Road
Bay Village, 44140
megelizabeth0217@yahoo.com
440-263-3934

Leslie Patzwahl (2017)
24111 Lake Road
Bay Village, 44140
lscp630@gmail.com
440-835-5937

Erin Williams
3615 Middle Post Lane
Rocky River, OH 44116
rwilliams100@cox.net
440-333-4520

Officers:

President: Janet Kramer jan43051@aol.com
Vice President: Bonnie Hawver bhwvr@aol.com

Recording Secretary: Dorothy Earl de116rr@ameritech.net
Financial Secretary: Chuck Zaugg ctzaugg@att.net
Treasurer: Alex Tomoff alex@tomoff.com

Send Feedback

STAY CONNECTED:



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 UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST