

The Grapevine

October 2018



The monthly newsletter of Church of the Redeemer United Church of Christ



Church of the Redeemer **UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

23500 Center Ridge Road
Westlake, OH 44145
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corucc.org

Sign up for our newsletter:
tinyurl.com/cornewsletter

Join us Sundays at 10:30 a.m.
for worship and faith formation.
Professional childcare provided.

Church of the Redeemer UCC
is a Just Peace, Open and
Affirming congregation.
ALL ARE WELCOME!

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Office Hours
M-W 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Th 9 a.m.-12 p.m.



News Around the Congregation

MARK YOUR CALENDARS Blessing of the animals is this Saturday, Oct. 4, in front of the church, weather permitting (inside the Fellowship Hall if it rains). Pets in cages, on leashes (if they are well behaved), in bowls, or in aquariums will each receive a short blessing from Pastor Brooke.

COFFEE, TEA, AND PASTOR B OCTOBER DATES: Oct. 9, from 10:30 a.m. to noon at Blackbird Baking Company (<https://www.blackbirdbaking.com>), 1391 Sloane Ave., Lakewood (Parking is just past the bakery, off Detroit); and Oct. 18, 7 to 8:30 p.m., at a change of venue FOR THIS MONTH ONLY — Starbucks on Detroit Road in Rocky River.

THE TRIP TO CHAPEL HILL has been cancelled due to low reservations.

NEW MEMBER CLASS If you are interested in becoming a member of Church of the Redeemer, or are just interested in learning more, please attend an informational meeting Oct. 7 after worship in the lounge. Go to fellowship hall and grab some goodies and then come back for a brief, 30-minute meeting. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Pastor Brooke.

THE NEXT THURSDAY GATHERING will be Oct. 18, 5 p.m. at the Berea Union Depot, 30 Depot St., Berea. Sign up in the Gathering Room.

REGINA BRETT WILL DELIVER the keynote at the third annual Westside UCC Theological Forum, 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 13, at Dover Congregational UCC, 2239 Dover Center Road, Westlake. Come and hear this best-selling author and inspirational writer. Questions? Call 440-871-1050.

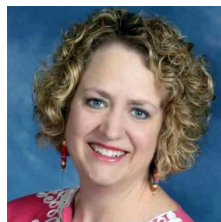


FIRST FROG WINNER! Congratulations to Julie Barnes, the winner of the September gift certificate for Blackbird Bakery in Lakewood! Let the office know where the frog is (not the one in this article!) in this issue to be entered into the next gift certificate drawing!

ANNUAL MEETING IN NOVEMBER This year, the Annual Meeting will be held Nov. 18, 2018, immediately following the church service in order to approve the 2019 budget and elect three people to the Leadership Team. A reception follows in the Fellowship Hall. End-of-the-Year Reports will be due in January 2019.

A Busy and Productive October Ahead!

This month is going to prove to be a busy one. Personally, I will be working hard on requirements for my capstone project for my Masters of Divinity from Lexington Theological Seminary in Lexington, Kentucky. All of these requirements will occur at Pilgrim Congregational UCC because that is where I continue to serve as student pastor. It will include teaching two classes, writing a 16-18-page paper, leading a delegation from Pilgrim to Tucson, Arizona, for a border immersion trip, as well as doing individual interviews with each of the members of the delegation. We will leave Cleveland Oct. 19 and spend five days with BorderLinks learning about life in the Borderlands and how U.S. immigration policy impacts immigrants. I went on this same trip in January as a participant, so I am looking forward to leading it this time. Since I will be gone Oct. 21, you will have the privilege of having the Rev. Dr. Paul Barbins back in the pulpit.



PASTOR R. BROOKE BAKER

While my focus for my project will be Pilgrim, Church of the Redeemer will also benefit and will likely hear sermons related to my experience — specifically viewing immigrants as a crucified people and looking at the community they create because of this struggle. The Exodus story is a wonderful parallel to the brutal desert crossings Central American immigrants endure.

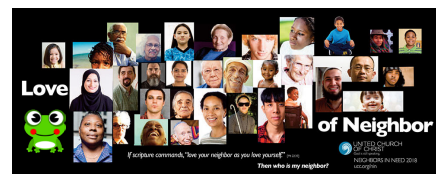
October will begin with a blessing of the animals on Oct. 6 at 10 a.m. I am looking forward to meeting your pets. Oct. 7 is both World Communion Sunday and Neighbors in Need Sunday. I know that Church of the Redeemer has traditionally done a month-long offering for Neighbors in Need, but on the UCC calendar, Oct. 7 is the day the denomination recommends. We will have the opportunity to hear what that offering is used for across the denomination. We will also have a new member class on that Sunday. If you are interested in learning more about Church of the Redeemer or are considering membership, please plan on attending an informational meeting following worship in the lounge.

Finally, but perhaps most importantly, we will begin our stewardship campaign this month. Rev. Barbins will begin a four-part sermon series for me with the topic, “What Shall We Bring? Ourselves.” I will then preach the last three on the topics of our resources, our gratitude, and our commitments. Please watch your mail in the coming weeks for more information and plan to be in worship for Stewardship Sunday on Nov. 11.

Whew! I promised you it was going to be a busy month. But here is also what God promises, “Don’t fear, because I am with you; don’t be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will surely help you; I will hold you with my righteous strong hand” (Isaiah 41:10). Because God promises not to leave us and promises to strengthen us, we can Fully Rely On God. Be sure to look for the frog in the Grapevine. I will see you in worship!

*Blessings,
Pastor Brooke*

October Offering



The Mission offering in September is the UCC Neighbors in Need fund, which kicks off this Sunday, Oct. 7, on World Communion Sunday. Learn more about the NIN offering:

<http://www.ucc.org/nin>

September In-Gathering

The September In-Gathering is the 75 lb. Peanut Butter Challenge! Let’s meet the challenge of collecting 75 pounds of peanut butter! Additionally, we are collecting new and good used boots for persons who are homeless.

Stewardship Campaign:



“What shall we bring?”

We may ask that question if we are going to someone’s house for dinner or a potluck. But it is also a question we ask as followers of Jesus and members of Church of the Redeemer.

As we begin our stewardship campaign this month, spend some time in prayerful consideration of what you already bring to your faith, as well as what else you might bring.

While many people view this as “asking for money,” this is much more about how you bring all of yourself to your faith. What will you bring?

MUSIC MINISTRIES

A Harvest of Musical Treats



Greetings!

It's hard to believe we're already into October and that much closer to some very special upcoming musical events.



CAROL PEDDIE

Please mark your calendars:

Sunday, Nov. 18, 3 p.m. THANKSGIVING IN SONG

A choral concert of outstanding sacred anthems presented by our Chancel Choir

Saturday, Dec. 1, 6 p.m. THE SHARON SIGNERS present "FROZEN"

Sunday, Dec. 16, 10:30 a.m. JESUS! THE ADVENT OF THE MESSIAH

Christmas Cantata by McDonald/Aspinall presented by the Chancel Choir

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

*Blessings to all,
Carol*

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRIES

October News in Faith Formation

Confirmation Retreat a Hit



Every two years, we start a new confirmation program off with a fall retreat. This year we went to Templed Hills Conference Center in Bellville, Ohio. Our six confirmands—Zachary Barnes, Katie Carney, Andrew Hille, Elizabeth Hille, Nola Foote, and Ben Miller—were accompanied by Margaret Borrelli and Lisa Thomas. Their time together was planned to start them on their journey by discussing “What Is Confirmation?” as well as “What brought you here?” They created prayer beads, decorated their journals, watched a movie, explored the camp, and read/listened to the Gospel of Mark. They have just returned home bonded as a group and ready for their next steps. And we hope the whole of the congregation will be praying for these wonderful young people. For more photos, LIKE our FACEBOOK page: <https://www.facebook.com/coruccwestlake/>



MARGARET BORRELLI

World Wide Communion Sunday, Oct. 7

Our children and youth will start out in their Faith Formation Rooms on Oct 7, where they will engage in discussion and activities that will prepare them to return to sit with their families at the end of the worship service and participate in Holy Communion.



It is parent's decision whether their children participate, but I would encourage parents to do so. One way to view the Sacrament is as the Family Meal at which everyone is welcome no matter their age. Even as adults, it is more of an experience of the heart and spirit than a knowing of the intellect. All children are able to experience being thankful (eucharist), to feel included in a celebration together (communion), and to remember how much Jesus loves them (the Last Supper).

For more resources, check out:

<http://corfamilieswithchildrenff.weebly.com/communion.html>

Children's Sabbath Oct. 28

We will observe Children's Sabbath again this year by celebrating our ministry to, by, and with our children and youth. We will offer them a blessing, recognizing how they in turn are blessings to our congregation. We also will present Bibles to our second graders and consecrate the Bibles given to our confirmands at their retreat. For more resources on Receiving a First Bible, check out:

<http://corfamilieswithchildrenff.weebly.com/bibles.html>

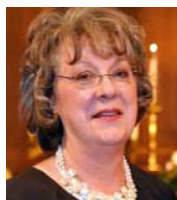
Redeemer UCC October Birthdays

3 Steffany Lynne Stone
4 Kevin Bracy
6 Jacob Miller
Erin Williams
8 Ellie Suhart
9 Keeley Williams
12 Brent Stone
14 Marcia Powles

15 Emily Toreky
Hollis Miker
19 Dave Evans
20 Jo Ann Chapman
Michael Kvasnicka
Angela (Ross) Reed
Amanda Miller
21 Jim Stone

23 Rose Domokos
Alyssa Sauter
24 Lauren Schlitter
26 Mary Kanzeg
Jessica Lentz
Sarah Pavelka
28 Andy Bischof

Resilience



GAYLE DONAHUE

This month's column comes to you with an invitation to join me at one or all three health education programs offered at Rocky River United Methodist Church. Our theme for all education is developing skills of resilience. In today's society, we are all faced with life events that can become significant life hurdles. Our challenge is to prepare ourselves, our family and our community with the knowledge and skills to meet and overcome these challenges. The Health Ministry team at RRUMC is sponsoring adult education programs to discuss resilience and three concerns confronting us today.

"Resilience the ability to cope with and rise to the inevitable challenges, problems and set-backs you meet in the course of your life, and come back stronger from them" ([skillsyouneed.com/ps/resilience.html](https://www.skillsyouneed.com/ps/resilience.html)). Over many meetings the health ministry team has discussed current life challenges and stresses that can be overwhelming and result in missed steps of life or use of mind altering substances followed by addictions. As a group of Christian health care professionals with many areas of expertise and life experience we have chosen to focus the education programs for this year on resilience. Ephesians 6:10-18 outlines very clearly the resilient gifts of armor God has provided to all believers. Wearing Gods armor gives us an action plan for the daily challenges or personal battles we may face. The modern day foe is not the Roman warrior of Biblical times but it is often the physical and mental pain and losses of life. Today our best armor/ action plan can be the understanding of our human body and the gifts God provides. In a series of three Sunday evening education programs, you are invited to join us to learn about pain and addiction, how to talk about loss and keeping our physical body strong and resilient. Invite a friend and join us in room 209 at RRUMC:

- ◆ Oct. 14, 7-8:30 p.m., Opioids/Pain Management Science with Todd Lewarchick PT, DPT, OCS, FAAOMPT, Certified Pain Specialist Certified Functional Strength Coach, Cleveland Clinic.
- ◆ Oct. 21, 7-8:30 p.m., How to Talk About Loss with Steve Boros bereavement therapist with Stein Hospice and Julia Ellifritt LISW-S at Cornerstone of Hope.
- ◆ Oct. 28, 7-8:30 p.m., Nutrition and Fitness with Lindsay Malone, dietician manager in functional medicine at Cleveland Clinic.

Also on Sunday Oct. 21, Caregivers will meet following worship to plan our annual report.

On Tuesday, Nov. 6, Life Line Screening will be providing health screenings. Receive \$10 off any package priced above \$139. To register, call toll free 866-229-0469 or online at <https://www.lifelinescreening.com/community-circle/>.

On Monday, Nov. 12, we will be touring the Normandy Senior Living Campus. We will meet at 11:00 a.m. at the new Lakeside assisted living building, 22441 Lake Rd., located to the left of the Care Center. At noon, we will have lunch in Breakwaters followed by a tour of the newly renovated independent living apartments. Please sign up before Nov. 5 on the bulletin board if you would like to attend.

Questions? Please leave me a message or email at donahuepn@gmail.com.

UCC DEVOTIONAL

Renovation

by Donna Schaper

Behold I come to make all things new."

— Isaiah 43:19

Chartres in France employs a digital light show to express what divinity enters the important cathedral. Chartres was an innovator in its time – by way of the flying buttresses that allow it to have large windows, through which great light comes. Chartres is becoming new. I wonder what it has to teach us about our own American beauties.

First Congregational Church in Newport Rhode Island has removed its pews and opened space for its LaFarge Windows. It will become, over time, a center for the arts.

St. Luke's in the Field, an Episcopal Church, in Manhattan has built a low-rise luxury building on its property in order to maintain its public ministries. They have a marvelous park and garden and school.

Union Theological Seminary sold off a portion of its famous quadrangle to a luxury apartment building in order to do 150 million dollars of restoration. It will live to train a future generation. Delayed maintenance will no longer be its message.

First (Presbyterian) Church in Queens built affordable housing on its property.

The chapel at La Coste in Provence, a large outdoor art museum "marries the local and the artistic." The chapel reverses inner and outer space by putting an ancient chapel inside a glass box. "None of the aboves" can walk outside and be inside.

PRAYER Give us, O God, great capacity to look at our buildings anew and anew and anew. Then let us look anew again and again and again. Freshen our perspectives. Amen.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Donna Schaper is Senior Minister at Judson Memorial Church in New York City.