The Grapevine

The e-newsletter of Church of the Redeemer UCC

Staff Information

Staff Hours and Contact Information
Office Hours M-W 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Th 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

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

In this Issue:

* Game night
* PB&J youth group update
* Reflections from the Rev. Jim Cunningham
* Get Together Dinner Nov. 16
* Monthly Devotional
* The latest from UCC national offices
* PB&J youth group meeting
* Staff columns
* And much, more

Coming Events and Information

LEND A HAND DAY at Redeemer
Saturday, Nov. 4, 9-Noon

We will gather at the church to clean up the yard and do some indoor cleaning in preparation for the
holidays. **LUNCH WILL BE SERVED!** See you then!

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**Game Night for ALL AGES**  
**Saturday, Nov. 11, 6 p.m.-??**

Bring a snack to share and your favorite card or board game. While reservations are not needed, **sign-up in the Gathering Room so we know to expect you.**

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**Thursday Night Get Together Dinner**  
**Nov. 16, 2017**

The next Thursday Night Get Together Dinner will be **Nov. 16 at 5:30 p.m. at Stella Mia Ristorante**, 28751 Center Ridge Road in Westlake. Look for the **sign up sheet** in the Gathering Room, or contact Mary Kanzeg for more information!

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**Life Line Screening**  
**Thursday Nov. 9, 2017**

Five screenings will be offered for: blocked arteries; abdominal aortic aneurysms; hardening of the arteries in the legs; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat; and bone density. The five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete.

A Wellness Package includes all 5 for $149 ($139 with our member discount). There are various other packages and price points. For more information, call toll free 1-888-653-6441 or visit lifelinescreening.com/community circle. You must pre-register to participate.

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**Time to Order Poinsettias**

It's time to order your Christmas poinsettias! This year's red poinsettias will come in 10" pots and cost $19/pot. **Order through the church office. DEADLINE is Nov. 26**, so that the flowers will be part of the altar decorations on the First Sunday in
Thank You!

Thank you for supporting Boy Scout Troop 421 and our annual popcorn sale. It is appreciated.

Andrew Hille

Hard at Work for Redeemer!

The Tuesday morning quilters are giving us all a peek at their next project. In this photo, Ruth Gartner, Marilyn Hughes, and Lois Schultz show off the front side of their next gorgeous creation! Jane Huml took the photo. As always, when completed, the quilt will be raffled off for the benefit of our church. Thanks, Ladies!!

Student Mailing Addresses Needed!

Caregivers team ministry likes to remember special times and needs in the lives of CORUCC members and friends through cards and messages. Two special caregivers send cards to all college/graduate students several times during the traditional academic year of September through May.

If you have a college/graduate student in your family, please update the church office or leave a message for Gayle, Faith Community Nurse, with the current mailing address for academic year 2017-2018. If you leave additional information such as the students academic concentration, it will help the care givers to personalize messages.

Questions, please call Gayle at 440-331-0834 or email her at donahuepn@gmail.com.

Chair Yoga
Chair Yoga classes are on Mondays at 11:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. You know you want to join in!

Namaste!

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**Journey to Bethlehem**
**Friday, Dec. 15, and Saturday, Dec. 16**

It's a GO! Thanks to everyone who has signed up so far to help. This year’s Journey will be the best yet!

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**Prayer List Information Update**

In order to manage and keep current the prayer list, a new procedure is in place. When someone notifies Redeemer of a new prayer request, the request will be added to the prayer chain and the Sunday bulletin prayer list. The person making the request is responsible for updating Redeemer on the request. After four weeks, if there has been no update, the request will be dropped off the list. Prayer requests can be made through Emma Kozar (440-899-6221).

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**Opportunities to Grow**

**Favorite Bible Stories Bible Study**

Each Wednesday afternoon, Jim Stone leads a Bible study on some of our favorite passages. Join Jim at 1:30 p.m.

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**Meeting God in Scripture**
**Sunday Oct. 15, 9 a.m.**
in the Youth Room (through the Green Door)

This devotional/study group is open to all. We meet once a month on the THIRD SUNDAY (a new week) at 9 a.m. We are starting a new resource called *Set Apart: Holy Habits of Prophets and Kings*. I hope you consider joining us.

Your furniture isn't solid gold nor have you seen a fiery chariot, but you're not unlike some of the kings and prophets in 1 and 2 Kings. Although they were set apart by God, they didn't have all the answers. They struggled. They made big-time mistakes. But they grew in their faith through spiritual practices even while carrying out God's calling on earth. Each month, we will study the story of one intriguing character, discuss God's unique purpose for his life,
and learn about his particular spiritual discipline. Then we'll explore how that timeless spiritual practice can draw each of us closer to God, helping us fulfill God's purpose for our lives.

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**Men's Spiritual Journey Discussion Group**

This group meets the second Sunday of each month at 9 a.m. Next meeting: Oct. 8 in the Lounge.

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**Science and Religion Discussion Group**


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**Opportunities to Serve**

**November In-Gathering: Non-Perishable Food**

In November, Redeemer will be collecting non-perishable food items. Canned proteins and other items will be collected throughout the month.

Thank you for your generous donations to our monthly collection!

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**November Offering: WSEM Hunger Centers**

The three Centers operated by WSEM in partnership with the Society of St. Vincent DePaul (SVDP), serve more than 750,000 meals annually.

Established by West Side Ecumenical Ministry (WSEM), the three food centers have been owned and operated by The Centers for Families and Children since 2011, when The Center for Families and Children merged with WSEM and El Barrio to expand its services to more than 25,000 Northeast Ohio residents each year. In addition to distributing emergency food, hot prepared meals are also served at the Near West center, and Community Corner offers a resale shop to clients. [Learn more.](#)

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**Youth Corner**

**PB&J Youth Meeting: Sunday Nov. 5, 6-8 p.m. to make Tied Fleece Blankets**

We have more than enough fleece to work with, but bring sewing shears (if you have any, labeled with your name) to help cut the fringe.
This has been an annual mission project. Completed blankets will go to Next Step to be given to young adults aging out of foster care.

From Our Church Staff

Temporary Notes from Your Temporary Pastor!

1. Note that I will be unavailable from Saturday, Oct. 28 through Sunday Nov. 5. If you need pastoral care contact Barb in the office, Gayle, Parish Nurse, or Janet, Consistory President. On Oct. 29 and Nov. 5 you will have the pleasure of hearing from the Rev. Brooks Berndt and the Rev. Sandra Hutchinson.

Worship Plans for November ...
Nov. 12: Stewardship Sunday ... "It's Not What You Think It Is About!"
Nov. 19: Thanksgiving Sunday ... "An Attitude of Gratitude"
Nov. 26: Remembering the Saints ... "What Will Your Legacy Be?"

At the Nov. 26 service, we will remember fellow members and family members who have died since Nov. 1, 2016. We would like to project a photo of them onto the screens. Please share a photo of your loved one giving it to me, or to Margaret, or to Barb in the office or email a electronic copy to Barb.

Our worship experience ...
I hope to see all of you in worship on Sundays as your schedule permits. I welcome your feedback about our worship experience ... what touches you ... what misses the mark ... what new ideas you might want us to consider.

As I explained at the beginning of worship on Oct. 22, we have made a few changes in the order and language of the worship service. We have added nothing new, nor taken anything out. I have suggested language that might help a visitor with little or no experience in Christian worship to understand and feel included, rather than some traditional language which we understand, but is foreign to them. We have changed the order of worship in response to a few suggestions, giving a better and more meaningful flow to the service and allowing children – who share in the opening portion of worship – to have more time in Sunday school.

I am thankful to you for inviting me to be a part of this transitional time in your journey and grateful for everyone's support and partnership.

Grace and Peace to you!

Pastor Jim Cunningham

A Minute with Margaret

I have often given this as an assignment to the confirmands,
but with Thanksgiving approaching I thought it would be a great exercise to create a prayer for your holiday feast. It is essentially writing a prayer using the format of the Lord’s Prayer.

You can select a theme, but that isn’t necessary. Here is one example. Just follow the easy directions but there is no right or wrong. Have fun with this. Write your own prayer, or include all the members of the household.

1. Write a name or names for God. Other than God or Father. (ex. Rock)
2. Add one or more adjectives to describe God. (ex. Above all others)
3. Put them into a sentence with an action of God. (ex. O Rock, who is above all others, you created the mountains.)
4. Write one or two sentences of something you hope for the future from God. (ex. May you bring your high places down to where I live in the valley. May I learn to seek you in the mountains and beyond.)
5. Write a sentence or two of ways you hope God will provide for your needs. (ex. Grant me the strength, and courage to walk this day even in the muddy and flooded places.
6. Write a sentence or two asking for forgiveness. (Ex. Forgive me for when I have carelessly stepped on others. Forgive me when I have refused to stand where you have called me)
7. Ask God for protection. (ex. Be a shelter for me when the wind is fierce. Be a place to climb when the water gets too high.)
8. Praise God in a sentence or two. (ex. Because you know me and call me, I can see your mountain land even though all around me is flat.)
9. Close your prayer with amen or other appropriate words. (And let my voice echo-Amen.)
10. Put it all together.

In this case, I changed the pronoun to plural:

O Rock, who is above all others, you created the mountains.

May you bring your high places down to where we live in the valley. May we learn to seek you in the mountains and beyond.

Grant us the strength, and courage to walk this day even in the muddy and flooded places.

Forgive us for when we have carelessly stepped on others. Forgive us when we have refused to stand where you have called us.

Be a shelter for us when the wind is fierce. Be a place to climb when the water gets too high.

Because you know us and call us, we can see your mountain land even though all around us is flat.

And let our voices echo -- Amen.

I would love it if you would share your prayers with me. Happy Thanksgiving.

Blessings,
Margaret Borrelli
A Musical Note from Carol

The Chancel Choir is presently working on this year's Christmas Cantata. It will be performed during the morning worship service on Sunday, December 17. Please note, this is a correction to the date given in the October Grapevine.

Please mark your calendars and come celebrate with us in song.

Blessings to all.

Carol Peddie, Director of Music

A Message from Nurse Gayle -- Disaster Preparedness

Greetings!

As I write this we are seeing the devastation of hurricanes and preparing for a change in seasons with potential for challenging weather. So, are we ready? We are blessed to live in an area with a plethora of resources but are we doing our part? If northern Ohio lost power for several days are you prepared?

We do not have control over unpredictable disasters but we do have the ability to plan. I encourage you to think about your safety plan and then think about your neighbor. How you can reach out to one another? Perhaps at the neighborhood picnic you can initiate a conversation.

Need conversation starters? Try these. Where is your community emergency shelter? If you had to leave your home where should your family look? Have you planned a meeting location near your home and another location if there was a regional evacuation? Would you leave a note on your door with your plan? For a variety of reasons, a cell phone may not work when power is down. Does your cell phone dial 911?

Have you prepared an emergency kit? A minimal kit will supply three days of food, water and medication for each family member and pet. There are a wide variety of emergency kits. The city of Boston has provided its citizens with a list of items for city dwellers. You will need to personalize for your needs and area. Have you included a magnifying glass? A magnifier can be a great help when eye glasses are broken or lost. Concerned about the size and weight of your emergency kit? This is your opportunity to check out camping supplies. You will be amazed at the size and weight of a backpackers flashlight, energy food etc. Looking for a unique and practical Christmas gift? Consider an emergency kit for your special person.

Finally pack a diversion in your kit. I suggest your Bible and book mark Psalm 18:18.

Additional disaster information:
United Church of Christ national leaders and local pastors, outraged that racist posters inciting violence against LGBTQ students were allowed to remain displayed on the campus of Cleveland State University under the guise of free speech, have made their displeasure evident in a large display ad in the Sunday edition of the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"It is appalling to believe the moral fiber of our society has eroded to such depths that anyone would even conceive of such graphics, much less post them in public space at a university," the ad reads. "Yet our country's rising acceptance of intolerance of difference in legislation, political rhetoric, and public protest creates a breeding ground for such acts of cowardice."

Their call to action is very clear. This type of reprehensible message, which was posted anonymously, depicted a lynching, and invited gay and trans students to die, is unacceptable and not to be tolerated.

"As clergy of the United Church of Christ, with national headquarters in downtown Cleveland, we are committed to the dismantling of all forms of hatred because hate is antithetical to the gospel of Jesus the Christ," the UCC ad reads.

The statement, signed by the UCC National Officers, the Rev. Michael Schuenemeyer, UCC Health and Wholeness Executive, the Rev. Rita M. Root, General Minister of the UCC Eastern Ohio & Western Reserve Associations, and Cleveland pastors, the Rev. Janet Ross of the Amistad Chapel UCC and the Rev. Kelly Burd, Pilgrim Congregational, calls out Cleveland State University President Ronald Berkman, who used the freedom of free speech, protected by the First Amendment, as reasoning for not immediately removing the hate-filled posters on Oct. 12.

"The First Amendment must not become the cloak under which hateful and harmful rhetoric seeks shelter from critique and confrontation. We must confront such clandestine agendas wherever they rear their ugly heads. President Berkman did not do this," the statement continues. "Leadership must not only
acknowledge someone else's First Amendment protection, but also advocate for the right of every student to experience an educational environment that is void of fear. We are hopeful that President Berkman has indeed heard the outrage of both students and community and has indeed adjusted his focus to the fostering of an academic environment whose communal standard would be to always and immediately speak out against such hateful rhetoric.

The posters were removed from campus only because school policy was not followed before they were displayed. Late Friday, a full week after the incident, and following the placement of the UCC ad buy, the CSU administration pledged to "invest in ongoing Cultural Humility and Cultural Sensitivity education that addresses the intersectionality of race, class, sexual orientation, gender and religious issues."

UCC leaders stand by their statement. "It is important that we, the church, speak out not only about this particular incident but about an emerging national trend of white supremacists being allowed onto college campuses and public squares to invite violence under the cloak of the First Amendment. Such blatant disregard for the safety and health of students violates the very spirit of the amendment. Freedom of expression, freedom of religion, freedom of the press are, at their core, intended to promote freedom from fear. The United Church of Christ joins the growing chorus of voices demanding that intolerance of all expressions of hatred against individuals for living in the fullness of their being should become the policy of every institution."

See the ad.

**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.

**Consistory:** Members turning in reports must have them in to Janet Kramer seven days prior to the Consistory meeting.

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**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!

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**Phone Guide**
Trying to reach someone at the church? Here’s a handy list of extensions:

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<thead>
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<th>Worship Times</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faith Formation Minister Margaret Borelli</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parish Nurse Gayle Donahue</td>
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<td>Main Office</td>
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**Monthly Devotional**

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

**Let Go of the Dark**

By Donna Schaper

"*The floods have lifted up, O Lord...the floods lift up their roaring.*" -- Psalm 93

When I talk to people who are living in the dark, darkly, I often try to retrain their vision. Many people think, with the psalmist, that a flood is coming. Differing with the psalmist, they think there is no way they can get above it. Even if you see political cruelty enhancing natural disasters, still faith lets us see that we can rise above both and not be diminished by either.

I often try to move attention to what is good. It ain't easy! Once somebody has become the prisoner of darkness – instead of enjoying the night – even ice cream looks bad. It puts on weight or adds to cholesterol or shows that we are undisciplined. Some of us spiritually like the flood. We have no interest in being above it.

What would happen if we were to become re-enchanted with the world that God has made? Rather than being habitually disenchanted with it and ourselves?

Might faith not make the difference? Might hope not be the antidote to the complicit despair of having given up long before the rains come? Yes. But first we must let go of the dark, which we have come to so enjoy.

**Prayer**

When you promise that we can rise above the floods, we hear you, O God. Give us the faith of Noah and the grace of the returning dove. Amen.

**About the Author**

Donna Schaper is Senior Minister at Judson Memorial Church in New York City. Her most recent book is *I Heart Frances: Letters to the Pope from an Unlikely Admirer.*

**Birthdays, Anniversaries, Joys, & Concerns**

**November Birthdays**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Emily Humphrey</td>
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<td>Owen Walters</td>
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<td>Brent James Stone</td>
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<td>Jennifer Bernard</td>
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<td>Jo Ann Chapman</td>
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<td>Michael Kvasnicka</td>
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<td>Angela (Ross) Reed</td>
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<td>Amanda Miller</td>
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<td>Jim Stone</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Rose Domokos</td>
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Novemberr Anniversaries

1  Kevin & Deborah Bracy
   Kelly Burd & John Forristal
3  Rob & Donna Miller
18  Chuck & Marilyn Hughes
27  Chuck & Diane Black
28  Bill & Sue Schlitter
   Doug & Becky Breitmayer

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

Send Feedback

STAY CONNECTED: