Staff Information

Staff Hours and Contact Information
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440-331-0834/church@corucc.org

The Rev. Jim Cunningham 440-759-9062; jh.cunningham@icloud.com
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 the Rev. Jim Cunningham the the Rev. Bob Richardson
* Children and Youth News
* Monthly Devotional
* Meeting Updates
* Staff columns
* And much, more

Coming Events and Information

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!
Church Cleanup is THIS SUNDAY, March 3

Please join us to give the church and grounds a spring cleaning. There are tasks for all abilities and skill levels. The cleanup starts at 9 a.m. and runs until noon. LUNCH WILL BE SERVED AT NOON! See you then.

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).

Order Your Easter Cinnamon Rolls!

$5/pan of 4 rolls. Will be frozen to be baked fresh whenever you want. Sign up is on the bulletin Board. Delivery is March 25.

Volunteer to help MAKE the rolls!

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY. Saturday, March 10, 9-noon; lunch provided.

Order Your Easter Lilies!

EASTER LILY ORDERS It’s time to pre-order your beautiful, triple-stem Easter Lilies! See the order form in this bulletin or on the info table in the Gathering Room. Deadline for orders is March 18.

Spring Fling March 11

Plan to stay for our celebratory Spring Fling after worship March 11 in the Fellowship Hall. Potluck sign-up is on the bulletin board in the Gathering Room!
Lenten Prayer Stations

Following the theme of JOURNEY – the Lenten one, our church's, our own – we have provided these prayer stations in our Chapel off of the Gathering Room. These provide an opportunity to reflect on our own experiences that mirror the migrant stories of immigrants and refugees.

We do so in the light of God's words to the people of Israel as they were brought out of Egypt and wandered in the wilderness. "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might." –Deuteronomy 6:5

We are also charged to love our neighbor in the Great Commandment. And Deuteronomy names our neighbor to be the immigrant, the poor, the widow, and those most vulnerable. (Deut 24) If you don't have time to read the storybooks at each station know that they will be read each week during worship for the Children's Message. ENJOY!

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.

Lenten Bible and Worship Study, Feb. 18-March 11

The Rev. Jim Cunningham is leading us through a 4-part Study of Brian McLaren's book, The Great Spiritual Migration: How the World's Largest Religion is Seeking a Better Way to Be Christian. You can still participate in the weekly Lenten study by attending worship and joining the discussion group after church!

Men's Spiritual Journey Discussion Group

This group meets the second Sunday of each month at 8:45 a.m. Next meeting: March 11 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.
March In-Gathering: Stormy Weather

In honor of March roaring in like a lion, this month’s In-Gathering is peanut butter and jelly. Thank you for your generous contributions!

March Offering: UCC One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God’s message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

Thank you for giving generously!

Children and Youth

Children and Youth News

CANDY NEEDED FOR EASTER EGG HUNT

The Youth are going to fill eggs again this year for the annual Easter Egg Hunt. We have the plastic eggs but the youth would very much appreciate help in collecting candy with which to fill them. Candy can be dropped off in Margaret Borrelli’s Office.

YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT

The PB&J Youth Group will be helping make Cinnamon Rolls on Saturday March 10, 9:00 am-Noon. Parents and siblings are welcome, too. Proceeds from the sale will go to a mission, yet to be announced.

PRE-EASTER FUN DAY

On Sunday, March 18, all children and youth will go directly to the faith formation hallway where we will meet together for the entire hour, working on Holy Week and Easter projects. Whether it's making cards for our shut-ins, table favors for the community meal, takeaways for Easter morning, practicing to sing on Palm Sunday, or hearing the story anew – everyone is getting excited for Easter to arrive.
From Our Church Staff

Thank you from Pastor Jim

Dearest friends in Christ in the Church of the Redeemer,

Thank you so much for the privilege and blessing of serving among you and with you over these last 8 months as your interim pastor for preaching and pastoral care. Everyone has been wonderful and gracious to me ... even in my worst moments! Everyone has been a joy in this time of ministry and work.

The staff – Barb, Margaret, Carol, Jason, Gayle, Alex and Bob Richardson – all have been outstanding as partners and colleagues in ministry. I am so grateful to you! Thank you! Lay people in leadership positions have been very supportive and helpful. Janet and all others, thank you.

Many people have contributed so much ... from ushers, to those who help prepare and decorate the sanctuary, those who prepare communion, usher communion, the liturgists, members of the bell choir and choral choir, people at the sound board, those who proof read and assemble the bulletins, people who set up drinks and food for the reception time, greeters, children who acolyte, participate in handing out bulletins, share in the children's message, and share warm greetings with me, everyone who attends and participates in worship, including those who dialogue with me in worship and after worship, everyone who shares in the pastoral care ministries of the church ... prayer chain, care team, everyone who reaches out to those in need, those who allowed me to provide pastoral care in times of need, the many who made Journey to Bethlehem possible in December.

Thank you to all.
And thank you to all those whose labors in the church did not involve me directly.

I am so blessed to have shared this time with all of you.

I wish you only the best moving forward. Keep loving and serving one another and the community as followers of Jesus.

The love and peace of Christ be with you and sustain you in your journey.

Jim Cunningham

Greetings from Our Interim Minister for Administration and Transition
Hello Again Everyone,

As you know, Lent is a time when we are intentionally invited to examine closely our relationship with God – noting the areas that need some work, as well as the areas in which we can celebrate our faithful response to the presence and love of God in our lives. Some years we can, if we want, manage to pretty much ignore this invitation. Not so much this year as the transitions continue, with Jim’s departure later this month, and the arrival of your new pastor not yet emerging on the horizon. It can seem overwhelming. And indeed it would be, were it not for the presence of God who is leading us through this time – just as God led the people through the wilderness following their exodus from Egypt, before entering the promised land.

As Moses led the people, there is no doubt that that time was frustrating, exhausting, and tried their faith, to say the least. At times they were faithful as they journeyed forth. At other times, faith in God seemed not to be part of their lives at all. Yet God never left them alone, nor stopped caring for them every step of the way – just as God will never stop caring for us in our time in the wilderness, no matter how we respond at any given moment.

As the transitions continue this month, I invite you to view them as an invitation to examine your faith and relationship with God. Take note of the times when you trust that God is here and leading us, as well as those moments when doubt and fear are having their day. Celebrate the former; ask God to help with the latter. Then take note of which there are more of in your life. And be ready to be amazed at what God does – in your life and in our church.

As always, if you want to talk I am available. Just drop me a note at brich948@gmail.com, or give me a call on my cell at 484-597-0173.

Continued prayers for the journey.

Bob Richardson
Interim Pastor for Transition and Administration

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A Minute with Margaret

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.

– Deuteronomy 6:5

These words were given by God to a people who were migrating from slavery to freedom. Moses and the people of Israel spent 40 years wandering in the wilderness seeking the promised land. To remind them that they didn't travel alone, God gave them words to remind them who they were: God’s people.

Our prayer stations and children’s messages are following this theme of Journey. We sometimes think of Lent as a journey through the weeks leading up to Easter. And we often talk about our personal life’s journey.

I went on a journey over 11 years ago that led me to Church of the Redeemer. It
meant me leaving the church of my upbringing. It also meant that I had to leave the comfort of a workplace where I had been 28 years. It was my first place doing ministry, the place where my family still worshipped. The leavetaking was every bit as shocking to me as Dorothy's house being picked up by a twister. Neither of us knew where we were going. We were traveling from Known to Unknown. For Dorothy, it meant landing in Oz. For me, my call led me here. I have to admit for a while I didn’t know if it felt more like wandering in the wilderness, or arriving in the Promised Land. But I chose to trust that God was leading me and in time this wonderful place, you wonderful people, have become like home.

Can I use the metaphor one more time? Yes, our church is on a kind of journey. And we are dwelling in our own kind of wilderness called transition. We’ve left but haven’t arrived. We have left what we have Known and the future only looks like a whole lot of Unknown. And it feels uncomfortable.

We can only do what the people of Israel had to do, what I had to do – TRUST. And God is good. We are not being asked to trust and travel alone. God has given us companions. Jim Cunningham has been here for a good part of a year sharing his gifts with us. And as he leaves, a new companion is stepping in to walk with us as we continue being the church. Do you think the people of Israel just sat around during those 40 years in the wilderness? No, they got married, had children. Together they worshipped, danced, sang, prayed. They lived their lives as people of God. And we are being called to do the same. We are called to continue to live our corporate lives together as God’s people here at Church of the Redeemer. Each week, each Sunday, in the pews, with our children, in our meetings, as we eat together, as we learn and love together. God is with us. Let us not forget who we are.

Blessings,
Margaret

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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 5th, at 6 p.m. in the church sanctuary. Please come and support these inspiring young people.

The Church of the Redeemer Chancel Choir will present a Spring Concert, "FEELIN' THE LOVE," on Sunday, May 20, at 3 p.m. in the church sanctuary. You just might hear one of your favorite love songs!

Thank you to Jason Aquila and the students from the Baldwin-Wallace Conservatory of Music for their outstanding performance on February 11. It's always a joy to have them come and share their talent with us!

Blessings to All!

Carol Peddie
Director of Music
Greetings! March is a month we have 10 health issues for our focus. I would like to share with you information on vision and nutrition. We have talked in the past about the grocery store being the food pharmacy and this is a great example.

**Vision** is a key ingredient of quality living and it is challenged by our aging process. Putting a bit of time and planning into maintaining good eye health may make later years more enjoyable. The American Optometric Association has several pages on their website discussing the results of research projects suggesting the progress of cataracts, age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and dry eye can be impacted by nutrition. The antioxidants, vitamins and minerals making a difference for eye health are Vitamin C, E, beta-carotene, lutein, zeaxanthin, and zinc.

Guess where you will find all of these? **In the grocery store.** On your way to the shelf of supplements, stop in the produce aisle and look at all the deep colors of fruits and vegetables. Consider adding a beautiful colorful salad to your dinner menu. You already know you will find Vitamin C in the oranges, grapefruits, papaya, cantaloupe, green peppers, strawberries and broccoli. Add some lutein and zeaxanthin with deep green leaves of kale, collard, spinach and turnip. Ok, you don't like green leafy, so make a salsa and use corn, green peas, orange peppers, persimmons and tangerines. Still need to add a bit of Vitamin E so let's top off your dish with almonds, sunflower seeds and peanuts.

Feeling overwhelmed with remembering which foods have which nutrients for each organ of the body? All new change begins with one small step. Start by including the vegetables with deep colors of the rainbow on at least half of your dinner plate. For a crowning touch, have fruit and a small handful of nuts for desert or snack. At your next eye exam ask your doctor for nutritional recommendations so you will be able to do as the Psalmist instructed and "lift our eyes to the hills" (Psalm 121:1).

**Senior Living Tours Continue! Join us for a great opportunity to see options for senior living.**

On April 13, Wednesday, we will leave from the church parking lot at 10:20 a.m. for Wesleyan Village in Elyria. We will tour an independent patio home, apartment and assisted living apartment. During lunch, we will have opportunity to ask questions and chat with staff. We will return to church parking lot approximately 2 p.m. Please sign up on the bulletin board or leave a message by Wednesday, April 11.

On May 3, Thursday, we will visit Concorde Reserve, Lutheran Home in Westlake. We will be meeting the van in the church parking lot at 11 a.m. We will tour the assisted living and view the displays and story boards for the independent living. Summer of 2019 is planned for the opening of independent living. Please sign up on the bulletin board or leave a message in the church office no later than Wednesday, April 25.

*Blessings,*

*Gayle*

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**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.

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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!

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

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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

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Monthly Devotional

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

**Following the Light**

*By Emily Heath*

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." -- John 8:12

Everyone wants to be in the church on Christmas Eve. That's the night we light the candles, sing "Silent Night," and feel the joy of Christ encircle us.

But are churches full during Lent? Not so much.

That's okay, but I always wonder what has changed so drastically since Christmas Eve. This year on Christmas I preached from John about Christ as the "light that shines in darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it." Then, as a packed sanctuary passed the light from the Christ candle from pew to pew, I challenged everyone there to commit as they raised their candles to one thing: this time pledge to follow the light of Christ not just at Christmas, but throughout the year.
As far as I could see, every candle was raised. And afterwards I heard many say, "I'm going to do things differently this year." But the reality is that our best intentions don't always win out, and by the time Lent rolls around the promises of Christmas are often long forgotten.

That's okay. We have all gotten off the path at times. But that doesn't mean we can't get back on.

Have you ever been lost in the dark? If so, how did you find your way? My guess is that you looked for the light, and you followed it back to the path.

Are you feeling lost now? It's not too late. Look for the light of Christ. Follow it back to the path you want to take. But don't stop there. Let the flame reignite you, lift it up, and now that you are found once more, decide that you will shine again.

Prayer

God, this little light of yours, help me to follow it, and to shine.

About the Author

Emily C. Heath is the Senior Pastor of the Congregational Church in Exeter, New Hampshire, and the author of the book, Glorify: Reclaiming the Heart of Progressive Christianity.

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Joys, & Concerns

March Birthdays

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Elise Walters</td>
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<td>Nola Foote</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Chuck Hughes</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Joel Foote</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Denise Nelson</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Donna Miller</td>
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<td>Andrew Reed</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Carney</td>
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<td>Kathy Barrick</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Mary Weisman</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Marilyn Hughes</td>
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<td>Alex Miller</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Bob Charvat</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Kim Toreky</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mike Miller</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Marsha Kushner</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Zachary Barnes</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Rudy Duscha</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>Katie Stone</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Liz Miller</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>Jackie Branch</td>
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<td>Genni Kirk</td>
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And a Happy Belated Birthday to Martha Brown, who accidentally got left off last month. Her birthday was Feb. 24!

March Anniversaries

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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Cary &amp; Kathy Tomsu</td>
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## 2018 Consistory Members

### Elders:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dorothy Earl</td>
<td>2676 West Asplin Drive</td>
<td><a href="mailto:de116rr@ameritech.net">de116rr@ameritech.net</a> 440-821-4515</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonnie Hawver</td>
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<td>Janet Kramer</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diane Kvasnicka</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:dianekvasnicka@gmail.com">dianekvasnicka@gmail.com</a> 440-871-6537</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chuck Mealy</td>
<td>16 South Hampton Circle</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ccmcealy@sbcglobal.net">ccmcealy@sbcglobal.net</a> 440-333-9658</td>
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<tr>
<td>Johanna Slygh</td>
<td>26234 Lake Road</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chuck Zaugg</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:ctzaugg@att.net">ctzaugg@att.net</a> 440-808-1816</td>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joel Foote</td>
<td>21870 Cromwell Ave.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:joelfoote@gmail.com">joelfoote@gmail.com</a> 440-779-0076</td>
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<td>5974 Gareau Drive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeanne Long</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:jeannelong1965@gmail.com">jeannelong1965@gmail.com</a> 440-892-3430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Megan Mealy</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:megelizabeth0217@yahoo.com">megelizabeth0217@yahoo.com</a> 440-263-3934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leslie Patzwahl</td>
<td>24111 Lake Road</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lspcp630@gmail.com">lspcp630@gmail.com</a> 440-835-5937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erin Williams</td>
<td>3615 Middle Post Lane</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rwilliams100@cox.net">rwilliams100@cox.net</a> 440-333-4520</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Officers:

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- **Vice President:** Bonnie Hawver [bhwvr@aol.com](mailto:bhwvr@aol.com)
- **Recording Secretary:** Dorothy Earl [de116rr@ameritech.net](mailto:de116rr@ameritech.net)
- **Financial Secretary:** Chuck Zaugg [ctzaugg@att.net](mailto:ctzaugg@att.net)
- **Treasurer:** Alex Tomoff [alex@tomoff.com](mailto:alex@tomoff.com)