

# The Grapevine

The e-newsletter of Church of the Redeemer UCC

May 2018

## Staff Information

### Staff Hours and Contact Information

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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 Rev. Bob Richardson
- \* Children and Youth News
- \* All About Us: News from Around Redeemer and more collected by Redeemer's own Church Mouse
- \* Special Mother's Day reflection by Lisa Thomas
- \* Monthly Devotional
- \* Meeting and Event Updates
- \* Opportunities for spiritual growth
- \* Staff columns
- \* And much more

## Coming Events and Information

### Youth Sunday is May 13

Come join us for worship on Mother's Day, Sunday, May



13, when our youth will lead us in worship.

They have some very special things planned for us.

Your presence and support will mean a great deal to each one of our youth!

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## Recognition of Graduates is June 3

Redeemer's annual recognition of graduates takes place June 3. If you or someone in your household is graduating from high school, college, or graduate school, please let Margaret Borrelli or the church office know.

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## All About Us -- Redeemer News

### HISTORY OF THE SHARON SIGNERS

On May 5 at 6 p.m., Redeemer choir member Cory Svette will once again bring the Sharon Signers to our church. They will present music from "Beauty and the Beast." The group of signers began 20 years ago when Cory's mother, Sharon, taught sign language to some of her special education students in Elyria schools. Soon after Sharon's very sad death two years ago, Cory began directing these students, who have a broad spectrum of disabilities. Please welcome these young people and attend the concert!

### UPDATE ON THE CINNAMON ROLLS FUND RAISER

Julie Barnes, and Elaine and Bill Freed, have reported that the sale of our church-made cinnamon rolls has brought in \$280. The Endowment Committee will match this amount, for a total of \$560.

This will allow us to give \$280 to the Child Sponsorship Program in the Philippines. Our adopted "child" is student Geiniv Palomar. Please see her Christmas letter to us on the mission bulletin board in the Gathering Room. We can correspond with her by using the tear-off address labels next to her letter on the mission bulletin board.

The other half of the cinnamon roll money will be donated to the Next Step program that serves youth who are exiting the foster care system in the Cleveland area. These funds will help prepare the young people for living independently.

### UPDATE ON THE WENDY'S BOYCOTT

You've probably seen the "Boycott Wendy's" buttons on the table under the mission bulletin board. Well, the [Wendy's Boycott](#) – supported by many faith groups and churches – is still on in full force. At issue are the many human rights abuses (*including wage theft, gender-based violence, child labor, and even slavery without access to protections*) on workers in the agricultural industry.

Wendy's has gone so far as to start buying tomatoes from Mexico so the company can avoid dealing with farms that participate in the Fair Food Program.

The [Fair Food Program](#) has won a Presidential Medal because of its successful approach to eliminating human rights abuses in the agricultural industry.

[Learn more](#) about the boycott.

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## Upcoming Learning Opportunities and Field Trips

### SENIOR LIVING TOUR AND LUNCH MAY 3

We will visit **Concorde Reserve at Lutheran Home**, 2116 Dover Center Rd., Westlake. The bus will pick us up in the church parking lot at 11 a.m. and return approximately 1:30 p.m. This is a not-for-profit Senior Life Community with assisted living, memory care, skilled nursing and rehabilitation. Independent living villas are expected to open in summer 2019. Please sign up on bulletin board no later than Monday April 30.

### LUNCH AND LEARN MAY 24

Join us for a Lunch and Learn on Thursday, May 24, from noon to 1 p.m. Brookdale Senior Living will provide lunch and present ***Brain Fit! Get Those Neurons Firing!*** Please sign up on bulletin board no later than Wednesday May 16.

### SENIOR DRIVING JUNE 7

Interested in Senior Driving? Join us for a Brown Bag Lunch on Thursday, June 7, at noon. Matt Gurwell will be our presenter. Additional details and sign up on bulletin board.



### 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!

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## Caregivers Meeting

The next meeting of the Caregivers will be Sunday, May 20, after worship. See Nurse Gayle with any questions.

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## 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).

## Consistory Update

*There, in the presence of the LORD your God, you and your families shall eat and shall rejoice in everything you have put your hand to, because the LORD your God has*

As usual, consistory has been working hard on behalf of the church, and there are several items from the March consistory meeting that need to be highlighted for everyone.

**Congregational meeting:**

There will be a special Congregational Meeting directly after worship on Sunday, May 6, to ratify the updated church Constitution as well as the newly created Bylaws. The Constitution and Bylaws committee has worked diligently for two years on these documents, and after allowing church members to read and comment on both documents, consistory has voted to approve them for church members' final ratification.

**Door policy:**

For increased security, the two outside doors off the parking lot by the kitchen will be locked on Sunday mornings. Signs will be attached to both doors directing folks to use the main entrance. For those bringing food and other items to Fellowship Hour or Sunday potlucks, there will be a cart provided by the Welcome Desk for items needing to go to Fellowship Hall.

**Search committee update:**

Many profiles have been received and the search committee has been conducting both first and second interviews with candidates. Please continue to keep the search committee in your prayers as they continue to do the work of finding our next pastor.

**Fellowship and food:**

To continue the feeling of fellowship, consistory has voted to have quarterly potlucks after worship. The next potluck will be after worship on June 3 where we will celebrate Heritage Sunday when we remember our churches history and celebrate the merger of the two into one congregation.

## Opportunities to Grow

### **Favorite Bible Stories Bible Study**

The Wednesday Bible Study meets Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. See Jim Stone for more information.

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### **Men's Spiritual Journey Discussion Group**

This group meets the second Sunday of each month at 8:45 a.m. Next meeting: May 13 in the Lounge.

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### **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

### **May In-Gathering: Fins, Feathers & Furs!**



This month, we are collecting canned protein food. Thanks in advance for giving generously!

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## May Offering: Holy Joe's Cafe



United Church of Christ military chaplains have found an old way to invite U.S. soldiers into a safe and informal place where they can receive spiritual care and good coffee. Congregations and individuals can support the Coffee House Ministry and simultaneously participate in the UCC Fair Trade Project by sending Equal Exchange Coffee to military

chaplains in Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait.

[Learn more](#) about Holy Joe's!

Thank you for giving generously!

## Children and Youth



### YOUTH SUNDAY IS MAY 13

PB&J will meet Sunday, May 6, at 6 p.m., where we'll finish planning for Youth Sunday!

## From Our Church Staff

### Taking the Next Steps -- A Message from Pastor Brooke



One of the things that appealed to me about Church of the Redeemer, when I was looking at your profile, was that you had made the bold step to become an Open and Affirming congregation. You had done the faithful work necessary and you voted to live out the teachings of Jesus by claiming your willingness to welcome all people. As with any new thing, the question that often follows the "yes" is "now what?" I have a suggestion you may want to take in early June.

Scripture tells us "for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith" (Galatians 3:26). One way we can demonstrate our faith is by being visible in the public square. Cleveland celebrates gay pride through a march – Pride in the CLE – that takes place in downtown Cleveland on June 2. In this march several faith communities, as well as other groups from the LGBTQ community, march a short route through downtown Cleveland and end in Public Square where there is music, food trucks, and everything else you would expect from a summer festival in Cleveland.

There are many families who participate, and Church of the Redeemer has been invited by Pilgrim Congregational UCC in Tremont to join them in marching. Pilgrim has a long history of marching and always welcomes other UCC congregations to join them. In addition, they host a Pride breakfast at the church at 9:30 a.m. before the march begins at noon.

We will leave Church of the Redeemer at 9 and go down together to Pilgrim and then carpool downtown to the march. People of all ages are invited. I have participated and/or attended several years and am happy to answer any questions you might have. This is a wonderful "next step" – literally – to living into our Open and Affirming identity. If you have a shirt/t-shirt that says Church of the Redeemer on it, I suggest wearing it so that we can be identified as a church that welcomes – and loves – all.

Too often, people in the LGBTQ community have been told they cannot be both LGBTQ and a Christian. We want to let them know that is not true by our bold, public witness as a faith community that does welcome the LGBTQ community.

There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the gathering area so we can let Pilgrim know how many people will be attending. I hope you will consider taking this next step in proclaiming God's love and Church of the Redeemer's welcome to all people.

*Blessings,  
Pastor Brooke*

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## **A Message from the Rev. Bob Richardson**



### **Greetings, Everyone!**

This year, Pentecost will be celebrated on Sunday May 20. Pentecost, as Luke tells the story, is the day the Holy Spirit came upon the followers of Jesus who were gathered together in Jerusalem, 50 days after the resurrection. From that small gathering of people in one place the Christian Church took its roots, spread throughout the entire world, and is still going strong approximately two millennia later. Clearly it was an event that changed the world forever.

As Pentecost approaches this year, it is important to be asking how it is that you see the coming of the Holy Spirit changing your life – both your personal life, and your life gathered together as the Body of Christ at CoR. And don't think that because the church is in a time of pastoral transition the Spirit will delay its coming, or that you're not ready for the Spirit to come with new life! Those gathered together in Jerusalem didn't think they were ready for anything like this either. Yet the Spirit came, and because it did they went on to do great and wonderful things for their Lord.

Are you ready? And what wonderful things do you see in the years ahead that the church will be doing for our Lord?

Come, Holy Spirit. Come!

*Bob Richardson  
Interim for Transition and Administration*

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## A Minute with Margaret



While on vacation, I started reading a book called *Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life* by Tish Harrison Warren.

One chapter is called "Making the Bed." The author starts out by reflecting on how people fall into one of several categories:

1. Those that always make the bed immediately upon waking. (The world might not turn on its axis if the comforter wasn't pulled up straight).

2. Those who never make the bed. (Why bother? It's only going to get slept in again.)

3. And those who make the bed sometimes (especially when company is coming).

Since she fell into the category of not making her bed (not first thing, or even later in the day), it raised the question that I will ask you also – What is the first thing that you do in the morning? In her case, it was to look at her smartphone. It struck me, because on most mornings, that's the first thing that I do as well.

She made me start to think about my ritual of looking at my phone each morning (and it is a ritual because I do it every day) and what that means for how I encounter the day that spreads out before me. Tish Harrison Warren decided to try something new, and instead started out making her bed as the first thing she did each morning. And then she'd sit on the smooth coverlet, and be at peace in the little space of order that she had created. And sometimes she'd say a prayer or read a little Scripture. And she found that it made a difference. Instead of being "imprinted" to technology, she found herself seeking that moment of peace, that she had created first thing, all throughout her day.

I am about to change up the Prayer Stations in the Chapel. They are going to focus on The Lord's Prayer. It's a prayer most of us know by heart. We can say it from memory. Its words fall easily off of our tongues. A Biblical Storyteller I know says there is a difference between having something memorized and knowing it by heart.

So how might our hearts be transformed if we really focused on the words? How might our days be enhanced if we made it part of our daily ritual?

How might our church life together be changed if we each committed to start our mornings with the words that Jesus taught us in our hearts? With what do we want to start our days? For Spring, I'm going to start each morning with The Lord's Prayer ... and I might even try saying it while sitting on my freshly made bed.

*Blessings,  
Margaret*

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## A Musical Note from Carol

**MAY IN THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT:**



May has arrived and we are happy to be presenting two upcoming concerts this month.

**The Sharon Signers**, under the direction of our very own Cory Svette, will be presenting a concert featuring selections from the ever-popular "Beauty and the Beast" on **Saturday, May 5, at 6 p.m.** in the church sanctuary. Please come out and support these inspiring young people!

**The Redeemer Chancel Choir** will be presenting a concert, **"FEELIN' THE LOVE,"**

featuring 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!

The performance will be on **Sunday, May 20, at 3 p.m.** in the church sanctuary. Please plan to attend and share the love!

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

*Blessings to all,  
Carol Peddie  
Director of Music*

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## **A Message from Nurse Gayle -- Caring for Mind, Body & Soul**



Greetings! May is a month filled with activities, expectations and celebrations. It is also our month to recognize the importance of mental health to our total well-being. Throughout the Bible we find words of encouragement to strengthen our mental outlook. Just one example is Philippians 4:6, 7. Paul tells us "not to be anxious about anything but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

But sometimes life gets tough and we feel a bit of the blues, anxiety or general dullness creeping in. When we are feeling this way spending a bit more time outdoors getting exercise may seem like the last thing we want to do. However, it can be the best thing for our whole health.

In the past we have talked about how exercise benefits our heart, chronic disease, weight and perhaps add quality years to your life. Getting regular exercise will not only give you more energy, help you sleep better and trim your waistline it will help you feel mentally sharper and more relaxed. The endorphins released in your brain during moderate exercise enhance your mood within five minutes (Weir, K., *The Exercise Effect*. APA, Dec 2011, Vol 42. No 11, pg 48.). Research has shown how exercise boosts our ability to focus and pay attention, raises our self esteem, strengthens our immune system and reduces the impact of stress. All of these process work together to build resilience for our individual life challenges.

Finding an exercise routine you enjoy and will do on a regular basis gives you another excellent tool to care for your mind body and soul. Need help setting up a plan? Contact me at 440-331-0834.

## In Honor of Mother's Day

### Mom Language

By Lisa Thomas

A few years ago, John and I travelled to Florida to visit family. Part of that trip included a few days at Disney World, where John and I would take the Disney bus back and forth from the park to our hotel room.

On one of those bus trips, I was sitting across from a mom with her two young sons. She was telling her youngest, "We are going back to the hotel room. You will just have to wait. Sit down!" She said all of this in Chinese. I do not speak Chinese ... However, I do speak the language of mom. It is a language that is the same around the world.

While visiting a beach in Acadia National park in Maine, I was watching all the families with little kids. Mom's were speaking French, Spanish, Dutch ... and they were all saying the same things: "Get back over here, I need to put sunscreen on you!", "Watch your little sister!", "Do not jump off that rock!"

At the time, I remember chuckling and not thinking much about it, but then I had my experience with the mom on the Disney bus, and I realized something bigger and more profound was going on. Mothering, nurturing, loving is the same in all languages.

With all the painful unjust things in this world, it makes me feel a little better to know that I could be in a room with any mom from any place around this world and we would communicate just fine. After all, we speak the same language – the language of mom.

## Monthly Devotional

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

### Idol

By Quinn Caldwell

*The idols of the nations are silver and gold, the work of human hands. They have mouths, but they do not speak; they have eyes, but they do not see; they have ears, but they do not hear, and there is no breath in their mouths. Those who make them and all who trust them shall become like them." -- Psalm 135:15-17*

"Papa?" I hear my seven year old calling curiously from upstairs, where we're supposed to be playing Legos. I had told him I'd be right back, and I meant it when I said it, but I glance at the clock on my phone and realize that that was like fifteen minutes ago. I've been hiding in the bathroom all this time, scrolling through Facebook. I'm hiding in the bathroom because, you see, I am a Good Parent and I know that Bad Parents stare at their screens all day, while their children watch them watching their screens, and so learn from their parents' Bad Examples. Therefore, to set a Good Example, I hide in the bathroom to stare at my screen so my son won't see me do it. Instead, he will simply wonder why I've ditched him. Because, as I said, I am a

Good Parent.

The Bible's full of warnings against worshipping idols, but Psalm 135 names the scariest of all the reasons: you become like what you worship. Worshipers of statues, the psalmist says, become silent, unhearing, unseeing. By just about any definition of "idol," my phone is one, and by just about any definition of "worship," I am one of its most devoted worshipers. If the psalmist is right, then I am in very real danger, alone here in the bathroom, of becoming like this sleek little god in my hand: loud with nothing to say, flashy with no beauty, outraged with no action, funny with no compassion, promising with no fulfillment. Id without superego. Form without substance. All heat and no light.

"Papa, what are you doing?" he yells from upstairs. And because even I can sometimes manage to hear the word of the living God in the voice of the prophet, I dash my idol against the stones\* and head upstairs to try to be present, aware, loving, deep, and real, like the One whom I'd actually rather be worshipping.

*\*aka "put it in airplane mode"*

### **Prayer**

God, save me from becoming click bait. Amen.

### **About the Author**

Quinn G. Caldwell is a father, husband, homesteader and preacher living in rural upstate New York. His most recent book is a series of daily reflections for Advent and Christmas called [All I Really Want: Readings for a Modern Christmas](#). Learn more about it and find him on Facebook at Quinn G. Caldwell.

## 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!

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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

## Birthdays, Anniversaries, Joys, & Concerns

### May Birthdays

- 3 Sandy Evans
- 8 Elizabeth Ann Hille  
Andrew Frederick Hille
- 13 Diane Kvasnicka  
Sally Barkhauer
- 16 Jan Bischof  
Jeff Kirkby  
Zanny Sauter
- 17 Diane Black  
Ruth Michelich
- 21 Christine Foote
- 22 Karen Tomoff  
Avery Zann
- 25 Matthew Warren
- 29 Erin Black  
Kate Lentz
- 31 Marge Hall

### May Anniversaries

- 10 Mike & Kathy Barrick
- 24 Tony & Nola Branch
- 30 Dave & Diane Kvasnicka

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**CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER**  
 UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

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