

The Grapevine

The e-newsletter of Church of the Redeemer UCC

June 2018

Staff Information

Staff Hours and Contact Information

23500 Center Ridge Road, Westlake, OH 44145
Office Hours M-W 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Th 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
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Pastor R. Brooke Baker interim@corucc.org
Margaret Borrelli, Minister of Faith Formation margaret@corucc.org
Gayle Donahue, Community Nurse donahuepn@gmail.com
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Barb Powell, Communication and Technology Specialist 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:

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- * Monthly UCC Devotional
- * Opportunities for spiritual growth
- * And much much more

Coming Events and Information

All About Us -- Redeemer News

I SCREAM, YOU SCREAM, WE ALL SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM!
Join your friends for some fellowship and ice cream on **June 13**
between 7 and 8 p.m. at Mitchell's Ice Cream, 26161 Detroit
Road, Westlake. Nothing tastes better than ice cream with friends!



We hope to see you there!

WESTLAKE FOURTH OF JULY PARADE!

Members of Church of the Redeemer UCC are invited to sign up on the bulletin board to **march in the Fourth of July parade**. The lineup begins at 9:30 a.m. at 4415 Lakeview Canyon Road and will end at Berniece Bennett Park. Let's remind the neighborhood that we are here and that all are welcome!

FROM DIANE KVASNICKA You are invited to attend the wedding ceremony of my daughter, Laura Ausma Kvasnicka, who will marry Matt Grinstead at the church on **Saturday, June 16, at 4:30 p.m.** Ausma has been a lifelong member of Redeemer, and many of you have watched her grow into the wonderful young woman she is today. Please come. We'd love to see you on this special occasion.

NEWS FROM FORMER PASTOR JANE RYAN KUROIWA

Several folks have expressed concern over how the Ryan Kuroiwas were doing in Hawai'i with the current volcanic activity in the region. Here is a message from Pastor Jane to everyone:

We are on Oahu Island, and the volcanoes that formed it have been extinct for millenia. 150 miles away from the active volcano, our only risk is air quality. Tradewinds from the northeast have kept the vog (volcano fog) and laze (lava - breathable glass shards) out to sea. Aloha to you!

COMMUNITY MEAL SUCCESS

With lots of help, Elaine and Bill Freed cooked pork roast, potatoes, vegetables, and salad for the community meal in April. Clague Road UCC Church and Redeemer UCC served 90 meals during the April meal.

ANDY BISCHOF WALKS TO END HUNGER

In May, Andy Bischof walked his special mile for hunger, and was able to raise \$550 in donations. \$295 came from Redeemer people. Thank you, Andy, and thanks to the contributors!

HOLY JOE'S SUCCESS! The May In-Gathering benefiting Holy Joe's Ministry netted \$410 for their outreach.

Caregivers Meeting

There will be no Caregivers meetings during the summer. The next Caregivers meeting will be following worship on Sunday, Sept. 16.

Upcoming Learning Opportunities and Field Trips

SENIOR DRIVING JUNE 7

Join us for a Brown Bag Lunch on driving and older adults on Thursday, June 7, at noon. Matt Gurwell will be our presenter. Additional details and sign up on bulletin board.

Men's Spiritual Discussion Group

This group meets the second Sunday of each month at 8:45 a.m. They are reading *Origin* by Dan Brown Next meeting: June 10 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.



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).

From Our Pastor

A Message from Pastor Brooke



Pastor R. Brooke
Baker

Greetings, Church of the Redeemer Friends,

As I write this, I am in Washington, D.C., at the Festival of Homiletics hearing some mighty preaching and being inspired! Homiletics is the art of preaching and every day I have had the opportunity to hear some prophetic preaching and some thought-provoking lectures, so be prepared for me to share some of my learning in the weeks and months to come.

As we begin summer, we have many exciting things to look forward to at Church of the Redeemer. We will celebrate Pride Sunday on **June 10** during worship. This will be an opportunity to live more fully into our Open and Affirming covenant, recognizing that we welcome people from the LGBTQ community and see them as created in the divine image of God, as brothers and sisters in Christ, and led by the Holy Spirit. **June 17 will be Heritage Sunday**, a celebration of our history as Church of the Redeemer and First Church and a celebration of our continued future together. Looking ahead to early July, we will make our presence known in the community by **marching in the Westlake Fourth of July parade**. This is an opportunity to be visible to those in the community and to "be church" outside of our walls. **If you are marching, please plan on picking up a t-shirt in the office** that proudly announces we are Church of the Redeemer, where all are welcome!

Speaking of visibility in the community ... **On the second Wednesday of each month this summer (June 13, July 11, and Aug. 8) we will be meeting at Mitchell's in Westlake between 7 and 8 p.m.** to share some fellowship and enjoy some ice cream. Come when you can and leave when you must!

I will be gone to Lexington, Kentucky, June 21-29 to complete my final two classes for my Masters of Divinity. I welcome your prayers as I take this significant step towards completion of my degree.

Finally, I am looking forward to celebrating the Lord's Supper with you on **June 3**. Following my approval for licensed ministry, it will be a joy to preside at the communion table with all of you good and faithful folks. I continue to enjoy getting to serve as your interim pastor and getting to know you as we live together in carrying out the work of Jesus Christ in the world today.

*Blessings,
Pastor Brooke*

Leadership Team Update

So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! - 2 Corinthians 5:17

May was a busy month at Church of the Redeemer! A highlight was our inspirational youth led worship service. Thanks, kids! Also, a big thank you to our faith formation director Margaret Borrelli and teacher Lisa Thomas for working with this phenomenal group of young people.

Other highlights

- On June 17, our church will celebrate Heritage Day with an expanded fellowship hour immediately following worship.

Twelve years ago, Church of the Redeemer and First Church of Lakewood combined to form one congregation. The bringing together of these two vibrant congregations has indeed resulted in a "new creation." Heritage Sunday will replace the separate celebrations of the anniversary of Church of the Redeemer and White Rose Sunday from First Church. Heritage Sunday will honor the past of each church as well as celebrate our coming together and future path.

- We will celebrate Pride Sunday on June 10. This service will focus on Redeemer's welcome to LGBTQ people, and the church's recognition of LGBTQ people as beloved children of God, created in God's divine image. Pastor Brooke's sermon will focus on the family of God. We hope you will come and celebrate!
- Pastor Bob Richardson was hired last November to be our Interim Minister for Administration and Transition and has spent the last six months helping us heal and move forward. He also has assisted the Leadership (Consistory) Team, Search Committee and Transition Team in their specific tasks. Currently, both Pastor Bob and the Leadership (Consistory) Team feel that the work he was hired to do has been completed; so Pastor Bob has been released of his duties here at COR. However, he will continue to be available to us by phone or email brich948@gmail.com; 484-597-0173. Thank you, Pastor Bob, for all of your help!
- On May 6, the church ratified our new constitution and bylaws. One change that you will notice immediately is the new language being used. Consistory is now called the Leadership Team. Of course, whether we use the name Consistory or Leadership Team, the same dedicated group of people will continue doing the work of the church.

Search Committee Update

I have told you these things so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. - John 15:11

Questions you Might Have for the Search Committee

Who is on the Search Committee?

Joel Foote (Chair)
Emily Humphrey
Janet Kramer
Chuck Mealy
Leslie Patzwahl
Lisa Thomas

How often does the search committee meet?

The search committee meets weekly for 2-3 hours with numerous emails and phone calls in between.

How are things coming along?

Our church profile was posted on the UCC website this past January and interviews began in earnest in March. Since that time, with the magic of Skype, we have conducted over 15 face-to-face initial interviews with a variety of candidates. A select few have had second interviews.

How has our church profile been received?

We have been complimented on the thoughtfulness and thoroughness of our profile.

Is there anything I can do to help the search committee?

Yes! Each member of the search committee is deeply committed to finding a pastor that can shepherd our church with love and care but also help to move our church into the future. The search committee also recognizes the trust and responsibility given to them so please continue to pray for us.

Please pray for discernment that we can wisely assess each candidate. Please pray for persistence recognizing this is a marathon not a sprint in finding the right pastor. Please pray for joy as we go about the work of reviewing profiles and interviewing candidates recognizing that any time we do God's work we can experience the joy of God's company and grace.

Mission Outreach



June In-Gathering: Breakfast of Champions

This month, we are collecting cereal. Thanks in advance for giving generously!

June Offering: Strengthen the Church

The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Materials available at <http://www.ucc.org/stc>

emerging needs of local communities.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

Thank you for giving generously!

Faith Formation

Here is the latest news and activities from Faith Formation:

SUMMER PRAYER STATIONS

Stop in the chapel off of the narthex and check out our first set of prayer stations on The Lord's Prayer.

- Our Father who art in Heaven, Hallowed be thy name
- Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on Earth as it is in heaven
- Give us this day our daily bread



There are opportunities to reflect, draw, write and color. The rest of the prayer will follow later in the summer.

THANK YOU TO OUR YOUTH



Thirteen of our youth met for two months to plan, so that they could lead us in worship on May 13. They used the theme of Stars and shared how God not only knows the stars by name but calls us by name. Through word and song, story and prayer, they touched our hearts with their message. We appreciate each and every one of you.

FAITH FORMATION CALENDAR

Sunday June 10 - Recognition of Faith Formation Leaders

Sunday June 17 - Sundaes on Sunday. Children and youth will meet to clean up their rooms and celebrate the end of the program year with ice cream sundaes.

Sunday June 24 - Start of Summer Faith Community. All ages will meet together for a fun Summer Faith Formation program each Sunday morning.



CEREAL - GOD OUT OF THE BOX

Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.

- Psalm 34:8



The commercials always tell us that cereal is a "part of a complete breakfast."

This fun series will show kids how, unlike cereal, that God has the answers for how to have a complete and joy-filled life. Each week we will take a look, (and a taste) of a different kind of cereal to see what message from God can be found. We will hear Bible stories, reflect, discuss and make creations out of cereal. It will be a truly out of the box experience.

WE NEED ALL KINDS OF EMPTY CEREAL BOXES STARTING NOW BUT COLLECTING ALL SUMMER.

Please collect your cereal boxes at home and drop them off in the church office.



Blessings,

*Margaret Borrelli
Faith Formation Minister*

Music Ministry

June in the Music Department



SHARON SIGNERS SUCCESS

We had two very successful concerts during the month of May. The Sharon Signers performed *Beauty and the Beast* under the direction of Cory Svette and did an absolutely wonderful job. They are an incredibly inspiring group of young people who instill a feeling of happiness, hope, and love in all of us. We thank them and look forward to their next performance.

REDEEMER FEELIN' THE LOVE

The Chancel Choir also performed a concert of love songs, *Feelin' the Love*. The choir blended their voices to create an atmosphere of warmth and love in the hearts of those in attendance. Thank you to every member of the choir, and to Jason Aquila for his exquisite artistry on the piano. God has blessed us with an abundance of talent, and we are truly grateful.



The Bell Choir has faithfully completed another season of providing beautiful music. We are grateful for their dedication and talent in ringing joyfully!

The Chancel Choir and Bell Choir will be off during the summer months, but the music will continue. Special music will be presented each Sunday.

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



Blessings to all,

*Carol Peddie
Director of Music*

Community Nurse and Caregiver Ministry

Alzheimer's/Dementia Awareness in June

WEAR PURPLE IN JUNE

Are you planning to wear purple during June? Consider being part of the global movement to fight Alzheimer's and dementia.

Although one in ten people over age 60 have some form of dementia this is not a normal part of aging. Dementia, "a decline in mental abilities severe enough to interfere with daily activity" is a result of a disease process. Alcohol-related dementia, vascular

dementia and Alzheimer's disease are the three most common forms of dementia. Some symptoms of dementia are caused by treatable conditions making the early assessment and intervention by your doctor very important.

Many of us have been touched by the most common form of dementia, Alzheimer's. Researchers are expanding our knowledge of what is happening in the brain, why the changes are occurring and possible preventive measures. If you would enjoy a detailed review of the brain go to www.alz.org and view Inside the Brain: An Interactive Tour. Factors influencing development of Alzheimer's that we cannot change: age, family history and heredity.

WHAT WE CAN DO

Three measures we can take to lower our risk: 1) prevent head injury with loss of consciousness (wear your seat belt, helmet and fall proof your home ...); 2) there seems to be a link between heart health and brain health (a healthy heart pump will get the oxygen and nutrition to your brain that it needs to function well); 3) overall healthy aging practices (healthy nutrition, socially active, no tobacco or excess alcohol and exercise both body and mind). These same life style choices will lower your risk of numerous other diseases and improve your enjoyment of day to day activities while you also protect your brain.

Start your summer in purple with healthy life style choices while you remember all those affected by dementia and Alzheimer's and the researchers working to understand our amazing brain.

SAFE DRIVING BROWN BAG LUNCH

You are invited! Thursday June 7, 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Matt Gurwell, CEO and founder of Keeping Us Safe will present *A Safe Drive thru the Aging Process*. The hot topic of senior drivers vs the aging process will be discussed in a practical, entertaining and realistic way. This is not another safe driving or driver refresher program. The ultimate goal is to offer suggestions on how to recognize and compensate for diminishing skills so seniors can remain on roadways as safe drivers. Please bring your brown bag lunch; beverage and desert provided. Please sign up by June 4 by sing up on bulletin board or calling parish nurse Gayle.



Blessings,

*Gayle Donahue
Community Parish Nurse*

Monthly Devotional

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

Inside Spirit

By Mary Luti

"Suddenly a sound like a violent wind filled the house where they were sitting ..."
- Acts 2:2

"We do not know how to pray ..., but the Spirit intercedes in us with sighs too deep for words..."
- Romans 8:26

In this activist denomination the Holy Spirit is often imagined as a divine wrecking ball,

smashing oppression and clearing the debris of injustice. Or a piercing eyeball revealing the nakedness of emperors, and lending us courage when we name the fraud and get in a heap of trouble. Or God's match lighting a fire under us, a roaring engine of mission, a blazer of trails that lead to who-knows-where, impelling us onto the road.

And She is. All that. Energy, thunder, movement. And more.

But the thing about the Spirit is that she's versatile, multi-faceted, with a rather long job description. Lucky for us, who are multi-faceted too, she does more than rush around causing holy havoc and pushing us out of our comfort zones.

Sometimes she restrains us. Sometimes she hushes. Sometimes she works from the inside out. She's an activist, yes, but inside action is her specialty, too. She's a sweetness. A gardener. A visiting nurse. Sometimes she knows we need comfort. Sometimes she is comfort itself.

Here's an ancient prayer you might like if this is you-exhausted in need of rest, parched in need of rain, sad in need of solace, motherless in need of a Mother.

Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit, come,
send from God your shining light.
Come, Mother of the poor,
giver of gifts, light of all hearts.
Best of consolers,
sweet guest, soul's refreshment:
In toil, rest,
coolness in heat, solace in sorrow.
Blessed Light, illumine us.
Without your shining
nothing in us stays innocent.
Wash our stains,
water our dryness, mend our wounds.
Bend the rigid,
melt the frozen, welcome the stray.
Give to us who trust in you
your manifold gifts.
Give us virtue's reward,
salvation's healing, and gladness evermore.

About the Author



Mary Luti is a long time seminary educator and pastor, author of *Teresa of Avila's Way* and numerous articles, and founding member of The Daughters of Abraham, a national network of interfaith women's book groups.

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, and many other events and activities, are on the main bulletin board in the hallway.

Please DO remember to sign up as you pass by!

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

June Birthdays

2 Claire Black
3 Pastor Brooke Baker
5 Char Robertson
6 Julia Scardina
7 Carol Warren
11 Elaine Freed
13 Gretchen Daiber
15 Joyce Droescher
Meredith Holt
19 Marilyn Murphy
Lizzy Thomas
Kyle Bracy
20 Carol Mealy
24 Devon Shank
27 Tony Garcia
28 Gordon Belmont
30 Leslie Patzwahl

June Anniversaries

8 John & Ruth Michelich
10 Alex & Amanda Miller
12 Andy & Jan Bischof
19 Russ & Erin Williams
23 Russell & Jill Negray
25 Chuck & Carol Mealy
Wayne & Margaret Borrelli
30 Dave & Leslie Patzwahl

2018 Consistory Members

Elders:

Dorothy Earl (2016)
2676 West Asplin Drive

Deacons:

Joel Foote (2018)
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Treasurer: Alex Tomoff alex@tomoff.com

Send Feedback

STAY CONNECTED:



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