MARK YOUR CALENDARS Homecoming Sunday is Sept. 9. A potluck picnic on the lawn will follow worship, featuring those exceptional ZAUGG DOGS! There will be inside and outside seating.

COFFEE, TEA, AND PASTOR B! Our summer ice cream socials were a huge success, so as we transition to cooler temps, it’s time for a different kind of gathering. Introducing COFFEE, TEA, AND PASTOR B! Beginning in September, Redeemer will hold monthly morning and evening gatherings — so everyone can find a convenient time to join in — for wonderful beverages, delightful pastries, and good conversation. Each location has both outdoor and indoor seating so that we can still enjoy the fall weather when possible.

Morning gatherings will be held on the second Tuesday, beginning Sept. 11, 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). Evening gatherings will be the third Thursday of each month, beginning Sept. 20, 7 to 8:30 p.m., at Erie Island Coffee (http://erieislandcoffee.com), 19300 Detroit Rd. in Rocky River; parking is in the Beachcliff Theater shopping area lots.

A TRIP TO PARKVUE COMMUNITY in Sandusky is scheduled for Sept. 13. Parkvue is part of the amazing United Church Homes family of senior living communities. See page 4 for more info.

A FALL MINI CLEAN-UP will be held Sept. 15, from 9 till noon. Lunch will be provided! See Mary Kanzeg with questions.

CONFIRMATION RETREAT is Sept. 29-30 at Templd Hills. See Margaret Borrelli with questions about the retreat. More info on page 3.


FIND THE FROG Each month, in honor of the congregational year-long theme of “FROG” (Fully Rely on God), a frog (see the graphic) will be hidden somewhere in the Grapevine. Call, email (church@corucc.org), or leave a note in the office, with your name and specifying where you found it, so you can be entered into a monthly drawing for a gift certificate! Can you find the frog in this issue? (NOTE: It’s somewhere ELSE in the newsletter!)
Back to the Routine: Fully Relying on God

SEPTEMBER — THE TIME TO RETURN to routine. Kids have to be up for school with lunches packed, homework has to be done, lessons resume, soccer games and practice are back in full swing, and the adults — either with children or without — recognize a different pace. It is enough to feel completely overwhelmed and as if we need to do our best to control as much as we can. Except that is not what the scriptures teach us and it is not what our faith teaches us.

Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while. For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat.

— Mark 6:31

Jesus sets the example — even during hectic schedules — to rest. The last part of this reminds me that too often I am eating lunch at my desk or in the car on the way from one place to another or eating dinner at 9 p.m. after I get home from a meeting and before I start working on my capstone project. Jesus reminds us that we have to rest and make time to actually enjoy not only our food, but perhaps to have some fellowship with those we love while doing it.

Our theme this year is F.R.O.G. — fully rely on God. We — as a staff — chose this because frogs can only move in one direction: forward. They cannot move backwards or sideways, but only forward. This is a good reminder for our church and for each of us in our own life. However, if we move forward without inviting God into our movement, we may end up someplace we don’t want to be. So listen for where our Still-Speaking God is leading you forward.

During the blessing of the backpacks each child received a (really cute) frog to put on their backpack to remind our children to fully rely on God. I may go get one of the extra ones and put it on my desk (or maybe one for here and one for home) to remind me that I must fully rely on God if I am to move in the direction God intends. Keep your eyes open for frogs throughout the year, to remind each of us to fully rely on God.

Blessings,
Pastor Brooke
**MUSIC MINISTRIES**

**Fall Back into the Music Program!**

We are excited to begin another season of sharing God’s love through his gift of music.

The first rehearsals will be on Wednesday, Sept. 5. The Bell Choir will be at 7 p.m. and the Chancel Choir at 8 p.m. New members are welcome!

The annual Chancel/Bell Choir Picnic will be held on Friday, Sept. 7, 6 p.m., at the home of Carol Peddie. Contact her for details.

Upcoming special musical events through December include:

- **November 18, 3 p.m.** Thanksgiving in Song
  A Choral Concert presented by the Chancel Choir

- **December 1, 6 p.m.**
  The Sharon Singers present “FROZEN”

- **December 16, 10:30 a.m.**
  Chancel Choir Cantata: JESUS! The Advent of the Messiah by McDonald/Aspinall

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

Blessings to all, Carol

---

**FAITH FORMATION MINISTRIES**

**It’s the Start of the New Church Year**

All Church Retreat was a Hit

Almost 60 of us met at Elmwood Cabin for an end of the summer retreat and a chance to experience first hand what Messy Church feels like. Pastor Brooke led us in worship that had two breakout sessions, during which we all went outside to six large picnic tables set up with activities that went with our theme — Psalm 23: Trust In God. Following worship, we enjoyed a tasty potluck. Thanks to Jeff Kirkby, and Cory and Al Svette, for our music; to Bonnie Hawver for our beautiful tables; to members of the Leadership Team and everyone else who helped set up and tear down the space; and finally, to our original Messy Church Team who first envisioned presenting this alternative way of being church to our congregation.

**Fall Faith Formation Kicks Off**

Sunday, Sept. 9, is our Homecoming Sunday and the day that all of our regular church programming resumes. That means returning to our regular Faith Formation program, which this year has a twist. We are going to be combining our primary and middle groups and have one group for children (up through 5th grade) and one group for youth (6th-12th grades). We will change up the rooms as well. The Red Room will be our Gathering Space for Story, Worship and Media. The Orange Room will be our Craft and Tabletop Activity Room. And the Purple Room will be our Friend Zone, with activity stations set up to maximize interaction and conversation. The Youth will meet, as usual, in the Green Room.

**Confrmands Take Road Trip**

Our confrmands took the rapid transit downtown, ate lunch, and toured the UCC Church House in August — and even got to meet UCC General Minister and President the Rev. John Dorhauer. They are now preparing for their opening overnight retreat at Templed Hills Camp, Sept. 29-30. Starting in October, they will be meeting on the second Sunday of each month. Soon, they each will be looking for a Faith Partner. If you are approached, I hope you receive the invite as the gift that it is, and say YES! We all need to support these young people as they go on this important journey together.

---

**Redeemer UCC September Birthdays/Anniversaries**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BIRTHDAYS</th>
<th>ANNIVERSARIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Bob Patzwahl</td>
<td>3 Jonathan &amp; Holly MillerShank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Ruth Gartner</td>
<td>5 John &amp; Lisa Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Wayne Borrelli</td>
<td>14 Joel &amp; Christine Foote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Kaylee Madison Reed</td>
<td>23 Brian &amp; Tracy Uher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Debbie Shank</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alice DiNicola</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Martha Vincent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Fern Jones</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Philip Patzwahl</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Vern Long</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katie Carney</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 Ann Davies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Nola Branch</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 Avery Zann</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SEPTEMBER SEEMS TO BE THE perfect month to recognize the role of our intellect as one dimension of our whole health.

We were taught the creative use of our minds during our classroom years. This lifetime gift from God is too important and valuable to restrict to formal education.

Recognizing that God is the source of all wisdom and knowledge (Ps. 111:10) is the first step in understanding that our intellect affects all aspects of life and health. All of our health — physical, emotional, social and spiritual — is affected by our thinking.

For example, when we do something that makes us feel inadequate, we may experience a stomach ache or be reluctant to participate in a new activity.

This is a great time of the year to be open to new intellectual opportunities and remember Ecc 8:1, “...Wisdom makes one’s face shine and the hardness of one’s countenance is changed.”

During the next few weeks, consider challenging yourself by attending a new program, perhaps a senior living tour with a close-up look at future possibilities, or attend a new social activity. Maybe be proactive and learn how and why developing yoga skills of relaxation and stretching can be life saving.

Senior Living Tours Continued:

Thursday, Sept. 13, 2018, meet the bus for United Church Homes Parkvue Senior Living (3800 Boardwalk Blvd., Sandusky, Ohio 44870) in CORUCC parking lot for 9:45 a.m. departure. We will tour a model cottage, apartment for independent/assisted living, the health center and salt water pool.

Please sign up no later than Thursday, Sept. 6, 2018.

Caregivers will have a brief meeting on Sunday, Sept. 16, following worship.

Have questions or want to chat? I would enjoy visiting with you, Gayle

More News Around the Congregation

JEWELRY SALE FUND RAISER Char Robertson will hold another jewelry sale Sept. 30 after worship in the Fellowship Hall. If you have pieces to donate, or would like more information, contact Char at 216-221-0993.

UCC DEVOTIONAL

Compassion in the Desert
by Talitha Arnold

In those days when there was again a great crowd without anything to eat, he called his disciples and said to them, ‘I have compassion for the crowd.’ — Mark 8:1-2

Meanwhile Jesus keeps it pretty simple. Faced with 4,000 hungry people in the desert, he told his disciples, “I have compassion for the crowd. If I send them away hungry to their homes, they will faint on the way.”

The disciples were rightfully concerned for the practicality of the feeding program, but Jesus didn’t start with practicality. He started with compassion.

It’s a word that comes from two Latin words: com (“with”) and patir (to “experience deeply,” also “to suffer”). To have compassion is to enter deeply into the experience of another, deep enough to know their suffering and feel their hunger. It’s what Jesus did throughout his ministry. It’s why we call the story of his last days the “Passion.”

Jesus could have quoted the Bible’s injunctions to feed the hungry. He could have reminded the disciples how God cared for ancestors in their desert times. He didn’t. Instead he simply focused on the crowd’s hunger. He reminded the disciples (and himself) what would happen to the people if he and the disciples didn’t do something to help. He started from compassion.

May we who call ourselves Christian do the same.

PRAYER: When, like the disciples we feel overwhelmed by the needs of your people and the news of the day, renew our capacity for your compassion, O God.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Talitha Arnold is Senior Minister of the United Church of Santa Fe (UCC), Santa Fe, N.M.