News Around the Congregation

COFFEE, TEA, AND PASTOR B MARCH DATES: April 9 from 10:30 a.m. to noon at Blackbird Baking Company (https://www.blackbirdbaking.com), 1391 Sloane Ave., Lakewood; and April 25, 7 to 8:30 p.m., at Erie Island Coffee (http://erieislandcoffee.com), 19300 Detroit Rd. in Rocky River.

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE APRIL 18, 7 P.M. at Dover Congregational UCC in Westlake. Join us for this joint service at Dover. Pastor Brooke and the Rev. Keith Stuart will lead this meaningful service.

MARCH FROG WINNER! Congratulations to Andy and Jan Bischof, the winners of the March gift certificate for Blackbird Bakery in Lakewood! Let the office know by phone, note or email (church@corucc.org) where the frog is in this issue to be entered into the next gift certificate drawing!

WALK FOR HUNGER Mission and Outreach is encouraging the church to come together for the Hunger Walk on Saturday, May 11, at 8:30 a.m. This is a 5K walk that begins at the Great Lakes Science Center and goes through downtown Cleveland. After the initial incline up E. 9th, it is a pretty flat route. It’s a great opportunity to wear you CoR t-shirt and let the community know that church doesn’t only happen for us in our sanctuary. Look for a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board if you’re interested.

RAMADAN IFTAR DINNER Let’s join our Muslim brothers and sisters on Saturday, May 18, 6:30 p.m., at LaVilla Banquet Center, 11500 Brookpark Road, Cleveland, for a Ramadan Iftar Dinner. There is no cost for this dinner, as their interfaith guests are complimentary. The keynote speaker is Rais Bhuiyan, a survivor of an attack by a white supremacist in Dallas, Texas. Come learn more about Islam and hear Rais’ inspiring story and the work he is now doing. This event is sponsored by The Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR). RSVPs are needed by May 11. Please sign up on the bulletin board. If you have more questions, please see Pastor Brooke.

CHAIR MASSAGE COMING IN APRIL Al Svette, who has more than 30 years of experience in massage therapy, will offer 10-minute chair massages in the office next to the Lounge once a month following worship. The first session will be April 28. The cost is $10 each, and all monies will be split 50/50 with Redeemer. There will be a massage chair set up, plus a regular chair for those people whose physical limitations may make sitting in the massage chair difficult or uncomfortable. Look for the sign-up form to reserve your time! Questions? Talk to Al!
Greetings Church! It’s official — we get to do ministry together! I cannot begin to express to you how excited I am to get to serve alongside all of you. Of course we have work to do, but when you love what you’re doing, it doesn’t feel like work. Having the opportunity to engage in ministry with this congregation doesn’t feel like work and I hope that you will join me in this endeavor.

Now that I am full time, I am available Monday — Thursday. I look forward to sharing in your joys and being present for your challenges. Just as I jumped in with all of you for Palm Sunday and Holy Week last year, we are beginning this journey during Lent. I hope you are finding ways to draw closer to God, through the book discussions, daily devotional, and weekly worship; as well as your own, individual ways.

We will gather with Dover Congregational UCC for Maundy Thursday services on April 18 at their church. This is one of my most favorite services of the liturgical year. I hope you will plan on being there as we remember the night before Jesus died in a Tenebrae service. I then hope to see you Easter morning as we celebrate our risen Savior. It seems fitting that as we celebrate new life, we begin our life together in ministry. Let’s continue our rejoicing as we move forward in ministry together!

Blessings,
Pastor Brooke

Church of the Redeemer HR Ministry Team Reformed

When the church’s by-laws were approved in May 2018, the Ministry Teams were defined in Article 7.0. The Human Resources Team was recently reorganized and started meeting as a Team in March. The members of the Team include Bonnie Hawver, Janet Kramer and Dave Patzwahl. The responsibilities of the HR Team “include formulating the policies for, and dealing with concerns/complaints and suggestions from, the staff of Church of the Redeemer.” All work within this team is done in consultation with the pastor. If you have any questions or comments about the future work of this Team please consult one of the members. Thank you.

April Offering

The Mission offering in April will support two Council for Health and Human Service Ministries members: Crossroad Family and Child Services in Fort Wayne, Ind. (www.crossroad-fwch.org), and United Church Homes (unitedchurchhomes.org), based in Marion, Ohio.

Crossroad is a not-for-profit treatment provider for emotionally troubled children and their families. Behind that simple description is a long list of therapy, education, and family support services provided both to children who live on our campus and to those we work with in the community. A team of a chaplain, case managers, teachers, therapists, housekeepers, cooks, nurses, and others — working together to build Promising Futures for children.

United Church Homes is to transform Aging by building a culture of community, wholeness and peace. Its locations include both older adult care communities and affordable housing communities, as well as the UCH Ruth Frost Parker Center for Abundant Aging. UCH is SAGE certified, and welcomes everyone, regardless of gender expression or sexual identity. The messages of love, compassion and peace are core tenets of UCH’s mission and the teachings of Jesus, and part of UCH’s extravagant welcome.

April In-Gathering

In April, we will be collecting pasta and sauce. Thank you in advance for your generous donations to both the March offering and food collection.
You can still find a coloring station in the Gathering Room each week through Easter. We care completing posters that depict the stations of the cross. Coloring can be a spiritual practice or a great opportunity to talk with the others gathered at the table.

A Pre-Holy Week Experience Sunday, April 7

Our Journey toward Easter continues as children and youth go directly to their rooms to participate in a variety of activities.

- Creating “Easter-in-a-Bag” Handouts for Easter Sunday
- Crafting a Treat to pass out at the Community Meal
- Making Easter Baskets for the Bolton Elementary Buddies (in Cleveland)
- Gathering to hear the Story of Holy Week

Help Make Cinnamon Rolls Saturday, April 13, 9 a.m. - noon

Orders are underway for our Annual Cinnamon Sale. Deadline is Sunday, April 7: $5 for a pan (4 rolls). But the fun begins when we gather to make the rolls. No baking skills necessary. Lunch to follow. All ages welcome. This was a hit with the children and youth last year.

Palm Sunday Parade — Sunday, April 14

Children and youth should plan to get to worship a few minutes early so that you can get your palms and directions for processing in and around worship. It’s a wonderful way to start off Holy Week.

Easter Sunday — Sunday, April 21

There will be no Faith Formation down the hall on Easter. All children and youth will attend worship with their families. There will be Childcare in the Nursery with Miss Nancy for anyone needing it. Following worship, the children are invited to hunt for eggs in the Faith Formation Hallway. The hunt is being Hosted by our older youth. Donations of candy would be greatly appreciated. Please drop off in Margaret Borrelli’s office by April 8.

Coming Soon: Another Beautiful Handmade Quilt!

The quilters have been hard at work, and the new quilt is almost finished!

Stay tuned for information on the next quilt raffle!
**CAREGIVING/FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE MINISTRIES**

**Tips for Keeping Good Health Resolutions**

A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.  
— Proverbs 17:22 New International Version (NIV)

Do you remember your New Year’s resolutions for 2019? Wherever you are with your New Year’s resolutions, I would like to offer you the following list for your consideration this spring. I hope that you will focus on one or maybe two signs of health you would like to strengthen in your life.

The list is not based on massive research or evidence based practice of professional nursing, but perhaps it will be one day. However, there is some research supporting the health benefits of each topic. The list was published in Delicious Living (isn’t that a great name for a magazine?!). The author is James Greenblatt MD, Newton MA.

**10 Warning Signs of Good Health**

- Persistent sense of humor.
- Chronic positive expectations; tendency to frame events in a constructive light.
- Episodic outbreaks of joyful, happy experiences.
- Sense of spiritual involvement.
- Tendency to adapt well to changing conditions.
- Rapid response to and recovery from stress and repeated challenges.
- Increased appetite for physical activity.
- Tendency to identify and communicate feelings.
- Repeated episodes of gratitude and generosity.
- Continuing presence of support network.

(http://deliciousliving.com/conditions/10-warning-signs-good-health)

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**Coming Health and Living Events**

**APRIL 4 SAFE SENIOR LIVING** will be the topic for a Brown Bag Lunch and Learn in the Gathering Room. The Lunch and Learn will be at noon, immediately following the Lenten Book Study. Sunset Memorial will be sponsoring the talk. Just a few of the topics to be covered include safety in the home, medication, communication and financial safety. **Please sign up on the bulletin board list by Monday, April 1.** Beverage and desert will be provided. Questions? Please leave Gayle a message.

**APRIL 10 AT ROCKY RIVER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** Gayle will be hosting Lisa Anthony from Arden Courts as she presents Walking the Path of Dementia. In addition to learning about the changes that may affect all five senses, Lisa will offer ideas on how to support people with dementia. Join us in the café at Rocky River United Methodist with your brown bag lunch 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Presentation will be 11:30-12:30. Beverage and dessert will be provided. Questions? Please leave Gayle a message.

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**Redeemer Goes Green to Help Save the Earth**

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth ... (Genesis 1)

Our planet is fighting for its life. All of us must pull together in our little corners of the world to do what we can to keep our planet green and liveable. And so it is with pride that Church of the Redeemer UCC announces Go Green!, a new group committed to helping our church do our part for the environment. Current members: Bonnie Hawver (chair), Andy Bischof, Karen Farmer, John Michelich, John Thomas and Lisa Thomas.

Go Green! had a productive first meeting, and under Bonnie Hawver’s capable guidance there was a discussion of how Church of the Redeemer can be better stewards of our planet right here at church. The group discussed current recycling procedures as well as setting forth goals to improve our conservation efforts.

Currently, all Styrofoam cups and plates are being recycled. All our recycled Styrofoam items are sent to a repurposing plant in Ohio. However, we want to stop using Styrofoam completely since it is particularly tough on our planet: Styrofoam takes up to 1000 years to break down. Our plan? We are using biodegradable plates and cups, and ceramic mugs for our coffee and tea during Fellowship Hour one Sunday each month. Our ultimate goal is to make Fellowship Hour a Styrofoam free zone each and every Sunday.

Everyone is welcome to join the Go Green! Group, which meets quarterly. Our next meeting will be after Easter. Contact Bonnie Hawver if you would like to add your voice to fulfilling our mission of environmental stewardship. #LoveOfCreation.