News Around the Congregation

**PASTOR BROOKE IS GRADUATING, AND WE'RE INVITED!** The Board of Trustees, President, Officers, Faculty, Staff and Graduating Class of 2019 of Lexington Theological Seminary request the honor of your presence at its 153rd Commencement Ceremony, **Friday, June 14, 2019**, at 10 a.m., at Crestwood Christian Church, 1882 Bellefonte Drive, Lexington, KY 40503. The speaker is the Rev. Douglas N. Lofton, Chair, Lexington’s Board of Trustees. See the invitation on the Gathering Room bulletin board. **CONGRATULATIONS, PASTOR BROOKE!**

HELP TEND THE TAMIR RICE MEMORIAL GARDEN, May 2, from 5-7 p.m., Cudell Park, 1910 West Blvd. in Cleveland. The Tamir Rice Foundation is turning the park where Tamir died into a positive space (designed by his classmates, teachers, and the community) for all. In preparation for a memorial addition next year, join volunteers for a spring clean of the outdoor space. Read more in Margaret's column.

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 (we have more if you need one!) and let the community know that church doesn't only happen for us in our sanctuary. Sign-up on the bulletin board.

RAMADAN IFTAR DINNER 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. Interfaith guests are are free. Learn about Islam. Keynote speaker is Rais Bhuiyan, who will share his inspiring story as a survivor of a white supremacist attack and the work he is now doing. 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.

PRIDE WALK JUNE 1 Meet here at 8:30 a.m. to carpool to Pilgrim for breakfast beforehand. The walk begins at 11 a.m. We will walk with Pilgrim again this year. If you need a COR t-shirt, they are available in the office. The walk takes place in downtown Cleveland. Everyone had a blast last year, Join us this year!
Give Me an ‘H,’ Give Me an ‘O,’ Give Me a ‘P,’ Give Me an ‘E’!

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. — Romans 15:13

When I was a child, we made May Day baskets to give to our friends. The idea was that you made a basket of some kind — often out of plastic strawberry containers — weaved some ribbon through it, made a handle out of pipe cleaners, filled it with candy, put the basket on the front porch, rang the doorbell, and ran! The tale was that if you caught, you had to give them a kiss — a fate worse than death as a child. But it was also a time of the hope of spring — sometimes May Day baskets included flowers. It is not a tradition that is carried out much anymore, but the idea of hope in springtime still exists.

The last Sunday of April we began a worship series on hope. The first Sunday was “H Stands for Holy;” May 5 will be “O Stands for Opportunity,” May 12, “P Stands for Possibility,” and May 19, “E Stands for Engagement.” I hope you will come and learn how our faith calls us to live as Easter people in hope, and perhaps hear where the Holy Spirit is leading us as a congregation. Hope is something you can both have and give away. This series will look at both.

I kept saying that “after Easter” things would slow down, but as I look at my calendar that is not true. I’m not complaining! It is my hope that you will join me at concerts, walks, and dinners. Part of being a healthy and hope-filled congregation is to be active on more than just Sunday mornings. It does not mean you have to do all of the activities, but I encourage you to prayerfully consider where God is calling you to be engaged in our congregation.

In this issue you will find information about working in the Tamir Rice memorial garden, attending the Sharon Signers concert, walking in the Hunger Walk, attending the Ramadan Iftar dinner, attending the Spring Sing presented by the choir, and walking in the Pride Parade in early June. Our participation in all of these things demonstrate that we are an Easter people living in and sharing hope.

Finally, something that gives me great hope … I will be graduating with my Masters of Divinity from Lexington Theological Seminary in Lexington, Kentucky, on June 14. While I do not expect anyone to drive to Lexington, if you are looking for a lovely place to travel within driving distance, please know you are invited. This is the culmination of a hope that began many years ago and has prepared me to be your faith leader.

As we continue to grow together, I look forward to hearing how God is present in hopeful ways in your life and where God is calling you to be more hopeful.

Blessings,
Pastor Brooke

May Offering

The Mission offering in May will support Holy Joe’s Cafe Military Chaplains Fund. UCC 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.

In Chaplain (Ret.) Andrew Sholtes words:

“Holy Joe’s Cafe is a place where chaplains in the Small Forward Operating Bases, hangar bays, hospitals, aid stations and their makeshift chapels are able to bring a taste of home to the tired, the anxious, the angry, the lonely and the wounded.

“They can all get gourmet coffee, a reminder that the world they willingly left behind still cares.”

May In-Gathering

In May, we will be collecting canned protein foods: items like tuna, chicken, ham, and peanut butter.

Thank you in advance for your generous donations to both the Holy Joe’s offering and this month’s food collection.
Greetings, everyone! We celebrated Easter Sunday praising our Risen Lord with an inspiring sermon, Holy Communion, and beautiful music.

A special thank you to Philip Patzwahl for accompanying our hymns with trumpet; the Bell Choir for the beautiful prelude; the Chancel Choir for their uplifting anthem; and Jason Aquila for his outstanding artistry on piano and organ. We are truly blessed with the talent God has provided.

Now that May has arrived, we have two concerts right around the corner. On Saturday, May 4, at 6 p.m., the Sharon Signers, under the direction of Cory Svette, will be presenting “Peter Pan.”

We look forward to another wonderful performance by these incredible and inspiring young people.

The Redeemer Chancel Choir will be presenting “Spring Sing,” a Pops Concert, on Sunday, May 19, at 3 p.m. The program will feature choral, as well as specialty numbers including “Another Op’nin, Another Show”; a Choral Montage of songs from the 1920’s including “Bye, Bye Blackbird,” “Charleston,” and “Tea for Two”; and a medley of songs from “The Beach Boys” (just to name a few).

Please mark your calendars for these two very special events!

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

Blessings to all,
Carol

May News in Faith Formation

Thank you for those with busy hands during Lent

Thanks to all who filled Easter Baskets for the class we’ve adopted at Bolton Elementary in Cleveland, created treats to pass out at our Community Meal, and who assembled our Easter-in-a-Bag Handouts. Also, thanks to all those who colored our Stations of the Cross posters. They will remain displayed until Pentecost.

Confirmation Dinner, Sunday May 5, 6 p.m.

Our six confirmands are coming to an end of their Confirmation program. This month they will gather with their Faith Partners, parents, Pastor Brooke and Margaret Borrelli for a meal to celebrate their journey together. Continue to keep these young people in your prayers. You will have the chance to congratulate them in person on June 9th when they make their confirmation on Pentecost Sunday.

Intentionally for Children, Youth, and their Families

The Faith Formation Team would like to intentionally invite children and youth to some All Church Opportunities to serve our neighbors and to get to know them better. Please make note of the following and get details from their main articles in this newsletter. This a way for our young people to join us putting our faith into action. PLEASE SIGN UP ON THE BULLETIN BOARD TO LET US KNOW IF YOUR FAMILY WILL ATTEND.

May 2, Tend to Tamir Rice Memorial Garden A chance to remember a local boy whose death provoked a conversation, while at the same time we can tend to a beautiful space to help a neighborhood heal.

May 11, Run/Walk for Hunger A fun opportunity for our young people to raise money for the hungry while they walk in the streets of Cleveland, have a free breakfast and/or lunch, and get a discount to the Great Lakes Science Center if you want to make a day of it.

May 18, Ramadan Iftar Dinner Our youth may already know more than we do about the Muslim faith of their classmates. But here is a chance for an experience an interfaith dinner. There will be a keynote speaker, so you may want to consider that if you have a younger child.

Redeemer UCC May Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays
3 Sandy Evans
8 Elizabeth Ann Hille
Andrew Frederick Hille
13 Diane Kvasnicka
Sally Barkhauer
16 Jan Bischof
Jeff Kirkby
Zanny Sauter
17 Ruth Michelich
21 Christine Foote
22 Karen Tomoff
25 Matthew Warren
22 Avery Zann
Anniversaries
10 Mike & Kathy Barrick
24 Tony & Nola Branch
30 Dave & Diane Kvasnicka
CAREGIVING/FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE MINISTRIES

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

What does the term mental health mean to you? Do you understand mental health to be the absence of mental health disease or do you immediately think of positive mental health behaviors?

May is mental health awareness month so this seems to be a good time to discuss the topic. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines mental health as “a state of well being in which the individual realizes their own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to their community.” Is this the perfect definition? No, it is not. There are cultures and communities that would need to include terms for disease and a continuum describing the highs and lows of human experience.

We have often spoken of whole health — body, mind and spirit. Each is equally important to keeping us healthy and requires intentional care. Science is now telling us that the same behaviors that keep our physical body healthy supports our mental health. Choosing to eat a well-balanced diet, sleep, exercise, maintain a healthy gut and hydration are all part of setting the stage for good mental health.

After reading Genesis we all know we were created in the image of God — mind, body and spirit. Each time we take the opportunity to choose a healthy behavior we are honoring the story God has created in us.

My question to you is this: What are you choosing to do to honor your mental health story?

If you would like to chat, send me a message and I will be happy to visit. If you would like to read more about mental health promotion behaviors click on the links in the box or give me a call.

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

— Philippians 4:6-7 (NRSV)

Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. — Peter 5:7 (NRSV)

Blessings,
Gayle

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Even More News!

INTERFAITH PRAYER VIGIL Each Thursday, local clergy and others hold a short prayer vigil, in solidarity with our immigrant brothers and sisters, at the ICE field office, 925 Keynote Circle, Brooklyn Heights. All are welcome.

SHARON SIGNERS THIS SATURDAY! This Saturday, May 4, at 6 p.m., the Sharon Signers, under the direction of our own Cory Svette, present a concert of Peter Pan. Join us for this enchanting presentation!

MAY FROG WINNER! Congratulations to Marilyn Hughes, the winner of the May 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 drawing!

MAY DATES: May 14, 10:30 a.m.-noon at Blackbird Baking Company (https://www.blackbirdbaking.com), 1391 Sloane Ave., Lakewood; and May 16, 7-8:30 p.m., at Erie Island Coffee (http://erieislandcoffee.com), 19300 Detroit Rd., Rocky River.

CHAIR MASSAGES Once a month, Al Svette offers 10-minute chair massages for $10 each in the parish nurse office. Next up: May 26.

DON’T MISS THE CHOIR CONCERT:

Church of the Redeemer UCC Chancel Choir presents

Spring Sing
A Pops Concert

May 19, 2019
3 p.m.

23500 Center Ridge Road, Westlake

Steps for Good Mental Health
https://tinyurl.com/cormentalhealth

Good Mental Health for All Ages
https://tinyurl.com/cormentalhealth2