Church of the Redeemer
UNIVERSAL CHURCH OF CHRIST
23500 Center Ridge Road
Westlake, OH 44145
440-331-0834
@coruccwestlake

corucc.org

Sign up for our newsletter:
tinyurl.com/cornewsletter

Join us Sundays at 10:30 a.m.
for worship and faith formation.
Professional childcare provided.

Church of the Redeemer UCC
is a Just Peace, Open and
Affirming congregation.
ALL ARE WELCOME!

Staff
Pastor R. Brooke Baker
Senior Minister
pastorbrooke@corucc.org
Margaret Borrelli
Faith Formation Minister
margaret@corucc.org
Carol Peddie
Music Director
cpsongbird@aol.com
Jason Aquila
Organist and Bell Choir Director
jason.aquila@gmail.com
Barb Powell
Communication and Tech. Specialist
church@corucc.org

Office Hours
M-W 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Th 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

News Around the Congregation

The Living Water Association, Ohio Northeast
of the Heartland Conference, United Church of Christ
and
Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ

cordially invite you, along with your prayers,
to the Ordination to Christian Ministry of

R. Brooke Baker

March 8, 2020, 3 p.m.
2592 W. 14th Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44113

A light reception will follow.
Clergy are invited to robe and wear red stoles.
Greetings, Friends! We have made it through Advent and Christmas and are now in the season of light of Epiphany. Before the next Grapevine comes out we will have begun Lent.

But let’s not get ahead of ourselves. We have begun a new calendar year and that is often the time to set goals for the year ahead. During the leadership training that I did with members of leadership here at Church of the Redeemer on January 11, I encouraged committee members to be sure to allow time to dream during their meetings.

Most agendas have plenty of business to complete, but too often we don’t take the time to dream. There are many places in the Bible in which God comes to people in a dream; there is Jacob, Daniel, the promise in Joel that old men will dream dreams and young men will see visions, and then of course there is Mary and Joseph. We have Biblical examples that it is okay to dream because it is in the dreaming that God appears.

We talk about our Still-Speaking God, but are we quiet enough to listen in the midst of our dreaming?

Dreams are not only important for our teams at Church of the Redeemer, they are also important for each of us to do as well. When was the last time you dared to dream — for yourself, your family, your church?

It is often difficult to dream when the ground beneath you is constantly shifting. On March 1, we will have been together for a whole year. The ground is settling, so let’s begin to dream together. Perhaps you have an idea for a new ministry or something you have always wanted to try. What’s stopping you?

We have a new year ahead of us — let’s dare to dream! When we do, we may be surprised to realize that God is the creator of that dream. I am excited about what dreams our Still-Speaking God will reveal to us.

Blessings,
Pastor Brooke

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**President’s Report**

by Jim Stone

The Leadership Team met on January 20 for the first time in the new year. New officers were elected with Erin Williams as Secretary, Debbie Shank as Vice-President, and me as President. A quorum was present in the room, and Andy Bischof participated by Skype. I think this long-distance participation was a first for us.

Some of our Ministry Teams are not yet organized and active, and we will be addressing that. We will also be forming a new Safety Team that will address our best approaches to maintaining a safe environment for our worshipers in a world where violence seems to be growing.

The Parish Nurse position remains unfilled with Pastor Brooke handling some of those duties and with qualified volunteer members providing blood pressure tests. In three months we will consider again whether we should search for a new Parish Nurse. We invite members to talk with the Leadership Team about this.

In February, Bruce Barkhauer, son of our long-time member Sally Barkhauer, will spend a weekend at Church of the Redeemer to discuss the spiritual side of our giving.

The Strategic Vision Team has suggested we look closely at how our funds are invested. The Legacy Fund and the Endowment Fund are managed by separate teams that decide how to invest. We may want to consider options to most faithfully manage these funds. We plan to have an expert, retired financial planner conduct a meeting to review the various potions we might consider. This remains to be scheduled, but March is possible.

The year 2019 was very good for the Church of the Redeemer, and we are optimistic that we will continue to grow in service to God and God’s creation in 2020.
Greetings and Happy New Year!

It’s hard to believe … 2020!! As I look back, I’d like to express my thanks to every member of the Chancel Choir and Bell Choir, and to Jason Aquila and all soloists for their beautiful music during the Advent season. We are truly blessed by your God-given talents!

We have two upcoming events scheduled for the Spring. On Sunday, May 17, at 3 p.m., the Chancel Choir will be presenting a concert titled Broadway Revue. And on Saturday, June 13, at 6 p.m., we will present performance by the Sharon Signers. Please mark your calendars!

We consider it an honor and privilege to share God’s goodness with all of you through music. Thank you for your continued prayers and support of our music ministry.

Blessings to all,
Carol

Mission Offering and In-Gathering

In February, the In-Gathering collection will be canned fruits and vegetables.

The mission offering will benefit the UCC’s Outdoor Ministries (which benefits such places as Templed Hills, where our confirmands have met in retreat).

Thank you for your generous contributions!

February Birthdays

3 Jean Badger
5 Tonola Branch
6 Janet Denk
9 Dan Zerbey
Jeanne Long
9 Amanda Lee Earl
11 Barb Zaugg
12 Margaret Borrelli
13 Jonathan MillerShank
14 Julie Miller
Jeanne Long
16 Kirk Suhart
17 Megan Moran
18 Chad Bernard
19 Ben Miller
20 Brenden Bernard
22 Amy Reitz
24 Martha Brown

February News in Faith Formation

Registration for Summer Church Camp is Open

It is said that one week of Summer Camp can offer as much Faith Formation as a whole year of Church School. The Heartland Conference of the UCC operates Templed Hills, a beautiful retreat center in Bellville, for all ages.

Church of the Redeemer thinks this opportunity is so special that we offer a 50 percent campership from our Summer Camp Fund for all children and youth. Register by April 15th for the lowest price.

Please see the link for more information and talk to Margaret Borrelli to receive the campership.

http://www.heartlanducc.org/registration-instructions/

Candlemas — Dedication of Acolytes

On Sunday February 2nd, forty days after Christmas, on the midpoint between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox, the church celebrates Candlemas as a day of hope and light. It is a time to honor Jesus as the Light of the World, but also to remind us that, we too, have that light within us. We also choose this day to dedicate our Acolytes to their service as light bearers. We thank Donna Miller for her annual donation of decorated candles that we give to each acolyte as a sign of their commitment.

Redeemer UCC January/February Birthdays

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>January Birthdays</th>
<th>February Birthdays</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Marc Andrews</td>
<td>11 Barb Zaugg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bryan Humphrey</td>
<td>Deborah Bracy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jonathan MillerShank</td>
<td>Karen Farmer</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 John Michelich</td>
<td>14 Julie Miller</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Larry Hess</td>
<td>15 Sally January</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linda Hess</td>
<td>16 Kirk Suhart</td>
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<td>7 Charles Jayson Bernard</td>
<td>20 Ellen Cronk</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11 Mary Miller</td>
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<td>12 Margaret Borrelli</td>
<td>23 Dave Hille</td>
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<td>13 Graham Foote</td>
<td>24 Eugene Widmer</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 Deborah Bracy</td>
<td>25 Eric Schlitter</td>
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<td>17 Gloria McIntyre</td>
<td>26 John Thomas</td>
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<td>20 Brenden Bernard</td>
<td>27 Carol Peddie</td>
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<td>23 Dave Hille</td>
<td>24 Martha Brown</td>
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Margaret Borrelli

MARGARET BORRELLI
More News Around the Congregation

COFFEE, TEA, & PASTOR B The February get together takes place Feb. 10 from 10:30 a.m. until noon at Blackbird Bakery in Lakewood. Join us for a great cup of coffee (or other beverage) and conversation!

MONDAY BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR BROOKE Beginning Jan. 27, Pastor Brooke is holding a weekly Bible study at 1p.m. on the lectionary passages for the week.

SIGN LANGUAGE YOUTH, ADULT CLASSES CONTINUE on Tuesday evenings. For information and to sign up, contact Cory Svette: email csvette09@mail.bw.edu; cell 440-213-8755.

REDEEMER UCC SPONSORS NEW CHILD As part of our partnership with Global Ministries Child Sponsorship, we are now sponsoring Shem Abby Badon (See the mission bulletin board for her first letter to us). Our former sponsored child, Geiniv Palomar, is now 18. Our 7 years of donations will help her finish her college education and she will occasionally update us!

Support Denison Avenue UCC Homeless Ministry

Support Denison UCC, 9900 Denison, Cleveland, in its ministry with homeless persons in Cleveland. Here are some ways you can help:

SUPPORT Denison UCC, 9900 Denison Ave.; Cleveland, OH 44102
PRAY for Pastor Nazomi Ikuta and the Denison UCC congregation for courage and strength as they struggle to provide hospitality to homeless Clevelanders.
DONATE (denisonucc.org) to assist Denison to make safety upgrades to their building.
VOLUNTEER (denisonucc.org) to spend time at Denison UCC to assist in their ministry with the homeless. Fire Watch: 2-hour shift between 6-10pm; contact Maggie @ fnbeastcle@gmail.com or text/call 440-340-3663.
ATTEND WORSHIP at Denison UCC, 11 a.m. Sundays
CONTACT Cleveland officials to urge cooperation with Denison UCC, Metanoia Project and the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless.
CALL/EMAIL the Mayor, City Council President, and Councilwoman Donna Brady:
  Mayor Frank Jackson; 216-664-3990 mayorsactioncenter@city.cleveland.oh.us
  City Council President Kevin Kelly; 216-664-4579 kkelley@clevelandcitycouncil.org
  Ward 11 Councilwoman Donna Brady; 216-664-3708 dbrady@clevelandcitycouncil.org

For additional information on ministry with homeless persons:
  Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless neoch.org
  Metanoia Project metanoiaproject.org

Join Us in Service at Clague/Redeemer Community Meal

by Elaine Freed

Each month, volunteers from RedeemerUCC and Clague Road UCC work together to prepare a meal for residents of the neighborhood — Westlake, Fairview Park, North Olmsted — everyone is welcome!

The original intention, when this program began in Lakewood/Cleveland, was to prepare a healthy meal for those in need. Over the past 20 years, our objective has changed as our guest’s needs have changed. Yes, the guests who are in need of a nutritious meal are greeted and served. However, that “need” has expanded to include those who are lonely and in need of companionship as well. The meal program welcomes everyone.

Friends, you are needed to help keep this “hands on ministry” viable. Most of our work is in the kitchen, but help is needed serving, talking with guests, cleaning up after the meal. With enough help, a volunteer can share their time for one to two hours and then go home. We have experienced cooks and volunteers who can lend a hand with all who are able to commit their skill, time and energy — we have neighbors in need right here in our community.

Talk to Elaine Freed or Jeff Reitz for additional information.