News Around the Congregation

**PASTOR BROOKE’S ORDINATION** March 8 at 3 p.m., Pilgrim Congregational UCC. We are assembling a carpool to the church since parking is limited. If you would like to be part of the carpool, let Bonnie Hawver know. Likewise, if you can be a driver that day, let Bonnie know: 440-333-2661; email bhwvr@aol.com.

**COFFEE, TEA, & PASTOR B, SURE AND BEGORRAH!** This month’s Coffee, Tea, & Pastor B takes place March 17, from 10:30 a.m.-noon. Join Pastor Brooke at Blackbird Bakery for conversation and a great cuppa!

**NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY** It’s time for a new directory. Lifetouch Directory will be here March 2, from 2 til 9 p.m. to take photos. Please put that on your calendar so that you can be included. For more information, talk to Bonnie Hawver, 440-333-2661; email bhwvr@aol.com.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** to help out with the Pictorial Directory. We need folks to make follow-up phone calls and send out reminders. Talk to Bonnie Hawver if you can volunteer some time!

**CHURCH FINANCE MEETING** To follow up on the Strategic Vision Team’s suggestion that we consider thoughtfully how our funds are invested, we have scheduled a discussion led by Dr. Elisabeth Plax, a retired financial planner, on March 22 after worship. She will describe some of the options available on how we manage the Endowment Fund and the Legacy Fund. So we hope that the members of the committees managing those funds attend along with all congregation members. It is the congregation that elects these committees, so we are all involved.

**LENTEN ACTIVITIES** Church of the Redeemer UCC and Olmsted Community UCC in Olmsted Falls are holding worship and fellowship together throughout Lent. See the full schedule on page 4.

**TIME FOR CINNAMON ROLLS!** It is that time again! We will be taking orders for our Cinnamon roll fundraiser beginning March 1 through March 22. As a reminder, the rolls are $5 a pan and contain 4 rolls. They are frozen and unbaked — ready for you to bake at your leisure. In the past, this project has supported the Next Step program, our Child Sponsorship Program in the Philippines and veterans services.

**CINNAMON ROLL PREP** Saturday March 28 from 9 a.m. —12 noon. Lunch provided afterwards. We will need your help preparing the rolls. If you have done this before, you know that we have a great time! There are jobs for all — young and old! You do not need to be a baker to help! Come for an hour or stay the whole time — all hands are appreciated.
Walk This Way

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. — Psalm 51:10

The season of Lent is truly my most favorite season of the Christian calendar. Perhaps it is because of my desire for more consistent quiet time with God. Lent reminds me of who I am and whose I am. I am a beloved child of God who continually falls short of that title. Hence, Lent is the time to come before God and repent. Repentance means to walk in a different way. The Psalmist asks God to create a clean heart in him and to change the spirit that is within him. Lent is a time for all of us to ask for that of God. But much like going off of Facebook for 6 weeks, or promising to stop buying Starbucks for 6 weeks, or any of the other things that we might choose to give up for Lent, turning to God and asking God to help us walk in a different way isn’t something that should end after Lent. Lent is the beginning of the opportunity to turn to God in the midst of our struggles as well as in the midst of our joys.

We have many opportunities in Lent to begin spiritual practices. Each Wednesday evening we will meet with Olmsted Community Church for a “Bread and Broth” gathering where we will learn about various theologians. Learning different ways to think about God allows us to draw closer to God. By the time you read this column, we will have celebrated Ash Wednesday at Olmsted Community Church and near the end of Lent we will remember the Last Supper at a Maundy Thursday service here at Church of the Redeemer.

We will also have the opportunity to participate in an intergenerational activity of making cinnamon rolls together. Regardless of age, when we spend time in community together, we draw closer to God through sharing God’s love with one another.

Since Lent is a time for repentance — a time to walk a different way — consider how you might participate in these opportunities as well as new ways to draw closer to God. I hope you will share your ideas about what you are doing (either alone or in community) to draw closer to God during this Lenten season.

Blessings,
Pastor Brooke
Greetings!

We are busy preparing for the Lenten Season and very much looking forward to Spring.

Our Chancel Choir will be combining with the choir from Olmsted Community Church for the services on Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday.

And, our choir will also be singing for Pastor Brooke’s Ordination on March 8 at Pilgrim UCC.

On Sunday, May 17, at 3 p.m., the Chancel Choir will be presenting “Broadway Revue.” The concert will feature a variety of choral selections from Broadway musicals, as well as specialty numbers.

The Sharon Signers, under the direction of Cory Svette, will be presenting Aladdin on Saturday, June 13, at 6:00 pm.

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

Please mark your calendars for all of these upcoming special events!

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

Blessings to all,

Carol

February News in Faith Formation

Word for the Year

The word you received on a star on Epiphany Sunday is for you to meditate and pray with throughout the year to see what it might reveal to you about your journey of faith.

Another way to enhance engaging your word is to Look it up in the dictionary.

Find out the word’s meaning Google the Etymology of your word. Discover the roots of the word, where it came from. And find synonyms in a Thesaurus. See other words that are associated with your word. All of those additional meanings and words might open up new ways your WORD FOR THE YEAR speaks to you.

Lenten Creation Prayer Stations

Don’t desecrate the land in which you live. I live here, too — I, God, live in the same neighborhood with the People of Israel.

— Numbers 35:34, The Message

Continuing with their mission focus of Care for Creation, our youth have set up prayer stations in the chapel for Lent.

The stations are opportunities for personal reflection on the gift of God’s earth and our responsibility to take care of it which is also the focus of our Lenten devotional this year, For the Beauty of the Earth.

Please support our youth and their efforts by spending a few minutes in prayer and meditation.

Redeemer UCC March Birthdays

1 Elise Walters
Nola Foote
6 Chuck Hughes
Joel Foote
10 Denise Nelson
11 Donna Miller
Andrew Reed
Elizabeth Carney
11 Kathy Barrick
16 Mary Weisman
Marilyn Hughes
Alex Miller
18 Bob Charvat
23 Kim Toreky
24 Marsha Kushner
25 Zachary Barnes
26 Rudy Duscha
29 Katie Stone
Liz Miller
31 Jackie Branch
Genni Kirk
This year Olmsted Community UCC (Olmsted Falls) and Church of the Redeemer UCC (Westlake) are sharing in food, fellowship, worship, and reflections during the Lenten Season:

**February 26 Ash Wednesday Services at Olmsted Community Church.** Time: 7 p.m.; Worship in the sanctuary, imposition of ashes, Pastor Brooke Baker providing the message.

**Note:** There is an opportunity for a joint choir anthem, members of COR’s choir are invited to join OCC’s choir for rehearsal on Thursday, Feb. 20, at 7 p.m. at OCC to practice.

**Each week, Wednesday Midweek Bread and Broth will take place in the fellowship halls of each congregation.** The hosting congregation will provide soups and bread. This Lent we will have the opportunity to reflect on contemporary theologians and explore together how they have experienced God in the world:

**March 4** at Church of the Redeemer (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)  
Time: 6 p.m., the Rev. Holly MillerShank providing the message

**March 11** at Olmsted Community Church (Peter Gomes)  
Time: 6 p.m., the Rev. Holly MillerShank providing the message

**March 18** at Church of the Redeemer (Rosemary Ruther)  
Time: 6 p.m., Pastor Brooke Baker providing the message

**March 25** at Olmsted Community Church (Elsa Tamez)  
Time: 6 p.m., Pastor Brooke Baker providing the message

**April 1** at Church of the Redeemer (Reinhold and H. Richard Niebuhr);  
Time: 6 p.m. The Rev. Holly MillerShank providing the message

**Note:** Olmsted Community Church Choir Members are invited to join COR’s choir at 8 p.m. to practice for joint anthems for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

**April 9** Maundy Thursday Services at Church of the Redeemer  
Time: 7 p.m.

**April 10** Good Friday: Midday Opportunity at West Park UCC, noon; Evening Opportunity at Olmsted Community Church, 7 p.m.

**April 12** Easter Easter Services to be held during regularly scheduled Sunday Worship at both Church of the Redeemer and Olmsted Community Church.

This year OCC will also be offering an Easter Dawn Service outside, additional details to follow.

---

**Redeemer and Olmsted Community Share Lent Worship, Fellowship**

This year Olmsted Community UCC (Olmsted Falls) and Church of the Redeemer UCC (Westlake) are sharing in food, fellowship, worship, and reflections during the Lenten Season:

**February 26 Ash Wednesday Services at Olmsted Community Church.** Time: 7 p.m.; Worship in the sanctuary, imposition of ashes, Pastor Brooke Baker providing the message.

**Note:** There is an opportunity for a joint choir anthem, members of COR’s choir are invited to join OCC’s choir for rehearsal on Thursday, Feb. 20, at 7 p.m. at OCC to practice.

**Each week, Wednesday Midweek Bread and Broth will take place in the fellowship halls of each congregation.** The hosting congregation will provide soups and bread. This Lent we will have the opportunity to reflect on contemporary theologians and explore together how they have experienced God in the world:

**March 4** at Church of the Redeemer (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)  
Time: 6 p.m., the Rev. Holly MillerShank providing the message

**March 11** at Olmsted Community Church (Peter Gomes)  
Time: 6 p.m., the Rev. Holly MillerShank providing the message

**March 18** at Church of the Redeemer (Rosemary Ruther)  
Time: 6 p.m., Pastor Brooke Baker providing the message

**March 25** at Olmsted Community Church (Elsa Tamez)  
Time: 6 p.m., Pastor Brooke Baker providing the message

**April 1** at Church of the Redeemer (Reinhold and H. Richard Niebuhr);  
Time: 6 p.m. The Rev. Holly MillerShank providing the message

**Note:** Olmsted Community Church Choir Members are invited to join COR’s choir at 8 p.m. to practice for joint anthems for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

**April 9** Maundy Thursday Services at Church of the Redeemer  
Time: 7 p.m.

**April 10** Good Friday: Midday Opportunity at West Park UCC, noon; Evening Opportunity at Olmsted Community Church, 7 p.m.

**April 12** Easter Easter Services to be held during regularly scheduled Sunday Worship at both Church of the Redeemer and Olmsted Community Church.

This year OCC will also be offering an Easter Dawn Service outside, additional details to follow.

---

**Mission Offering and In-Gathering**

In March, the In-Gathering collection will be peanut butter and jelly for “Stormy Weather.”

The mission offering benefits One Great Hour of Sharing.

The UCC is one of several denominations that join together to help people through OGHS.

Through One Great Hour of Sharing, the UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

Several Christian denominations — American Baptist Church, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Church of the Brethren, the United Church of Christ, and Church World Service — work together to develop common promotional materials thereby sharing ideas, costs, and a commitment to faithful service. Each denomination receives and manages its respective OGHS offering.

Sixty percent of the UCC’s offering supports international development initiatives, including annual support for missionaries. Currently, there are 2 OGHS-supported missionaries and 1 Global Mission intern working in disaster relief, health care, education, sustainable agricultural development, and refugee support. The offering also funds disaster preparedness and response, and disaster-related volunteer initiatives in the United States.