



The Grapevine



Special Insert Section, May 2021

The monthly newsletter of
Church of the Redeemer United Church of Christ

Back to Worship Update

Pastor Brooke and a team from Leadership Team have begun to meet to discuss how and when we will reopen the sanctuary for in-person worship. We invite you to join us in watching for some of the criteria we are following from the scientists to determine when it is safe to have in-person worship.

1. In order to reopen, we have to have no more than 150 new cases per 100,000 people in Cuyahoga county for two weeks. Every Thursday afternoon, those numbers come out and you can find them by going to <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/dashboards/other-resources/public-health-advisory-system> Select Cuyahoga County (it defaults to Franklin) to see the numbers. As of May 6, it was 216.
2. The other criteria we will look at is the color system. We need to be in the orange category for two consecutive weeks before we can open. As of May 6, we were red. The categories — from safest to most dangerous — are yellow, orange, red, and purple.

The goal of this team is to be able to return as soon as it is safe to do so. While we are waiting for the numbers to go down, we are working on making sure that those who wish to continue worshiping virtually can do so, as well as the logistics of returning to the building. We are working diligently to get us back in the sanctuary, so watch this area for continuing updates.

Meet Our New Members!

On Feb. 7, Redeemer UCC welcomed three new members into our congregation. Welcome, Carol, Patty, and Kit. We're so glad you're part of the Redeemer UCC family!

Carol Glotzbecker

CAROL LIVES IN FAIRVIEW PARK. She enjoys reading, knitting painting watercolors, and traveling, “mostly in the states,” she says, “but I’ve also been to England, Scotland, Italy, Costa Rica and eastern and western Canada.” Carol writes:

“My name is Carol Glotzbecker. I live in a condo in Fairview Park. It’s been my home for many years. I’m a retired 4th-grade teacher. I taught in North Ridgeville for 35 years, and totally enjoyed my job. When it came time to retire, I started volunteering, mostly in the Cleveland Metroparks.”

Patricia Lindamood

PATTY LIVES IN NORTH OLMSTED. A lover of nature and art, she says, “I treasure God’s creation ... God’s precious people [and] animals — both domestic and in the outdoor natural world.” She enjoys feeding and watching birds, pet sitting, and caring for wild animal rescues. “To help save Monarch [butterflies], I search for eggs and safely raise them. I release the butterflies at the Pollinator Garden at Lake Erie Science and Nature Center in Bay Village,” she adds. Patty writes:

“As a community leader, I have been chosen to participate in a three-month series of classes on diversity, equity and inclusion sponsored by the Diversity Center, the City of Rocky River, and Rocky River Public Library through a grant from the Community West Foundation.

“At Church of the Redeemer, I look forward to helping with our gardening needs, plus making carefully-crafted greeting cards to share uplifting thoughts. I’m a retired school teacher who treasures memories of rewarding days helping children learn and become the best they can.”

Katherine Myers

KIT ALSO LIVES IN FAIRVIEW PARK. A retired school counselor, Kit enjoys reading, travel, miniatures, dogs, and cooking. She writes:

“My name is Kit Myers, and I am so pleased to be a member of Church of the Redeemer. I have lived in Fairview Park for the last 24 years. I was married to Dr Eddie Myers, and am a recent widow. We had no children together, unless you count our beloved dogs. My profession was as school counselor for the Berea City Schools — for 39 years. I have been retired since 2012. I look forward to meeting you when we can once again be together.”

CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

A community grounded in Christ, growing in service...

LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING MINUTES March 15, 2021

x	Rev. Brooke Baker	x	Dorothy Earl		
x	Margaret G. Borrelli-Minister of Faith Formation	x	Elaine Freed		
x	President-Debbie Shank		Rick Garcia		
x	Treasurer-Alex Tomoff	x	Jeff Kirkby		
x	Julie Barnes	x	Mike Miller		
x	Andy Bischof	x	Marcia Powles		
		x	Matthew Williams		

Call to Order / Opening Prayer

Opening – Meeting called to order at 7:17 p.m.

Opening Prayer – Dorothy

Joys and Concerns

- Mike shared that he and Julie are grateful they have received their first vaccine. He also expressed Joy that Brooke has agreed to the covenant prepared to pave the way to become our Settled Pastor. He also expressed joy that his son Ben is engaged and schedule to be married July 22nd in Milwaukee.
- Andy shared that he has been in touch with Diane Schwing, who longs to see all in-person, but does not especially like electronic services. He also shared that he had a nice conversation with Kay
- Debbie also shared her joy that Pastor Brooke has agreed to the Covenant.
- Andy and Jeff reached out to Donna Greenwell and both had a pleasant conversation.

Approval of Minutes from 2/8/2021

- Motion to approve by Andy, seconded by Julie. Motion carried.

Financial Reports – delivered by Alex Tomoff

- Balance Sheet

We have about \$59,000 available cash. We also have a \$102,000 CD that matures in February 2022.

There was a \$42,000 transfer from Legacy invested funds to cash. \$33,050 of this transfer was spent to support various missions.

- Operating Statement Income & Expenses General Fund:
 - Offerings are ahead of budget through February.

- Church property expenses continue to be well above budget due to high winter utility bills and quarterly property insurance that normally would have been paid in December, but the bill was not received until January.
- All other expenses are at budget.
- Motion was made to approve the financial report by Matthew. Mike seconded. Motion carried.

New Business

- Discussion initiated about targeted means of opening the building again
 - A motion was made by Mike and seconded by Dorothy to return the Leadership Team to in-person meetings starting in April. Participants will wear masks, the room will be ventilated by opening the windows, and participants will be spaced at least 6 feet apart. In addition, the Zoom option will be available for those who cannot attend in person. Motion carried.
 - A motion was made by Marcia and seconded by Mike to reopen the building to outside groups (principally the Quilters, the Crafters, and AA). Participants will wear masks, the room will be ventilated by opening the windows, and participants will be spaced at least 6 feet apart (in the case of AA, this means they will be limited to 30 participants). Motion carried. The suggestion was made by Julie that we review our position at the next Leadership Team meeting if rates of covid infection increase.
 - Discussion was held around the factors involved in determining when it will be safe to reopen the building for in-person services. Mike has agreed to put together a team to develop an action plan.
- A need has been recognized to be prepared to implement streaming technology so that when we return to in-person services, we will be able to continue to offer an option to join the service virtually on our website. It is recognized that we will need equipment and personnel for this effort.

Pastor's Report – Brooke

- Corey's signing group will be using the church parking lot for rehearsing their drive-in performances which will be held this summer
- Julie Mistur is filling in as temporary office help during Barb's absence
- The Memorial Team will be approached about making arrangements to get plates engraved for members who have passed away.
- The Directory changes will be handled by Dorothy Earl in Barb's absence.
- There will be no March Grapevine
- Brooke will stay after the Easter service to allow for a time that members can pick up their Easter lilies. A time will also be available the next day during the morning. Julie will staff the effort from 9-10 and Andy will handle it from 10-12. For those lilies that are to be delivered to home-bound congregants, Jeff has volunteered his services.
- In addition to the outdoor Sunrise Service on Easter, there will be a Maundy Thursday Service conducted via Zoom.

Missions

- Andy continues to deliver food to the food bank.

- Jeff and Amy Reitz will be cooking on March 27th for the Community Meals. They are planning on providing for 200 meals.
- The Hunger Walk is scheduled for June 5th. Andy expressed doubts about the advisability of holding it at a congested location, as it is scheduled for the zoo. An option may be to walk at an alternate location, such as Lakewood Park.

Invitation Team

- Patty Lindamood has agreed to join the Caregiver's Team.
- Andy notes that they are in the process of trying to deliver gifts to new members this week.
- The committee is willing to send out postcards to new neighbors who have moved into the vicinity, using real estate transfers as the source.

Facilities

- The wooden cross is in the final stages of construction. The funds will be provided by the Memorial Fund.
- The Endowment Fund will cover the costs of the new landscape lighting.
- The first of three companies to evaluate the roof has advised they can send out two people, which will be billed at \$440/hour for the 3-4 hours expected to be necessary for the evaluation.

Announcement

- Cory Svette is looking to utilize video to enhance Journey to Bethlehem

Closing prayer offered by Pastor Brooke at 9:00 p.m. Pastor Brooke left the meeting.

Debbie moved that the Leadership Team go into Executive Session. Andy seconded. Motion carried.

--Executive session--

Leadership Team meeting resumes at 9:22 p.m.

Mike moved that we accept the Settled Pastor Agreement. Marcia seconded. Motion carried.

Next Meeting

- April 19, 2021
- Opening Prayer – Matthew Williams

Adjournment at 8:49 p.m.

- Motion by Mike, seconded by Julie. Motion approved by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy Earl