

The Good News

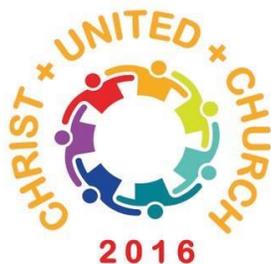
May 2019

The monthly newsletter of Christ United Church

Christ United Church

A federated church
of the Presbyterian Church
(USA) and the
United Church of Christ

**With Christ
as our heart
and God's love
as our fire,
we learn, we love,
we care for all
people.**



Something Bigger Than Ourselves

Pastor Allan's Message

It's Monday of Holy Week, and as I write this, the historic Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris is on fire. The spire is down, and the roof has collapsed. It seems inevitable that more of this beautiful building will be destroyed, perhaps all of it. It is a tragedy that brings tears to the eyes.

I remember visiting Notre Dame in 1981. I was astonished at how light was transformed as it streamed through the beautiful stained-glass rose windows into the interior space. I was thrilled by the height of the central nave rising high above the cathedral floor. I was fascinated by the technology of the flying buttresses that channeled the outward-pushing weight of the vaulted ceiling down into the ground, preventing the collapse of the walls. I was awed by the height of the spire straining into the sky. Everything about the church seemed to say, "Look up!"

It was a space that had been sacred to people for 800 years, and you could hear the echoes of centuries of faith resounding in the air. My imagination took me back to a world lit only by fire, a world of monks and scholars gathering around the cathedral school to found the University of Paris, the second oldest university in the world.

I imagined the cornerstone being laid by a mason who knew he would not live to see the cathedral finished, nor would his

son, nor his son's son, but he laid that stone anyway. He trusted that the faith for which he had laid that stone would continue beyond his life, and he gladly dedicated his life's work to something bigger than himself.

Such faith inspired everything about Notre Dame. The high vaults of the nave humbled even the most magnificent processions of the faithful beneath them, reminding all of the greatness of God above. The spire likewise pointed up from earthly beauty to heavenly perfection. It was a glorious building, built to the glory of God. While everything earthly beneath came into being, lived its time, and passed away, God above remained the same, always and forever.

On this Monday of Holy Week, Notre Dame reminds us once again that all earthly glory is fleeting, but God remains steadfast and loyal. The cathedral as we knew it may be gone, but God is still here, still at work, still in the hearts of the faithful every bit as much as God was in the heart of that mason on a spring day in 1160 when he laid the first stone.

The work of building the church is never finished. Each generation is called to lay stones for a cathedral of faith they will never see completed. It's our task do the work with faithfulness so that succeeding generations may build upon it with confidence.

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Something Bigger Than Ourselves

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It's our job to continue building a church that will say to the world, "Look up! There's more to life than what's rooted to the earth, no matter how beautiful it is. Look up, and humbly come before the God who made you and loves you." †

Annual Congregational Meeting Announced

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, May 19** immediately following worship. At that time church leaders and committee members will be elected and annual reports from committees, staff and Governing Board will be received. †

Caution! Construction at CUC!

Thanks to everyone's generosity, three major projects will be accomplished over the coming months.

First, starting just after Easter, the roof will be replaced. This will take six weeks or slightly longer.

Soon after that is done, we are lined up to have some major cement work done on the sidewalks around the church, replacing the crumbling slabs.

Finally, we hope to be able to replace most of the old windows in the original church structure.

When work is active, you are requested to take extra care in the driveways and when entering and leaving the church building. If a driveway is closed, this means work is being done and using it is unsafe. Use the other one.

Perhaps roof shingles are being removed and there may be loose nails. Large equipment may be in use. Even if the driveway is open, take care entering and leaving the parking lot.

Please be careful. We do not want any accidents! †



Worship Committee's Sunday Out Experience

"Look, I am about to do something new. Now it begins to happen! Do you not recognize it? Yes, I will make a road in the desert and paths in the wilderness." *Isaiah 43: 19 (New English Translation)*

Looking for something new to do this spring? Worship Committee has an idea for you, a "Sunday Out Experience!" One of our goals for this year is to explore and study other worship styles, and we need your help. We have planned a three-Sunday series for learning, gathering information and sharing what we learn.

On **Sunday, April 28**, Pastor Allan will talk/talked about worship, content, styles and why it is important that we experience and study how other churches worship. After the service, you will be given the name, worship time and directions to another church in the surrounding area, and a list of questions that lets you know what information the Worship Committee is seeking.

On **Sunday, May 5**, armed with your church information and your survey form, you will attend that church, worship with that congregation and complete the survey form. You are welcome to tell the folks why you are there, and, if you wish, you may want to ask someone about their worship style.

On **Sunday, May 12**, we will gather together in Fellowship Hall to worship and share our experiences from the previous Sunday. We will then gather all the information you have provided for a future planning. The Worship Committee looks forward to hearing about your experiences.

We understand that some of you may not be able to participate. There will be a worship service on May 5 at Christ United Church at 10:00 am. It is our hope and prayer that many of you will help and be blessed by participating in this "Sunday Out Experience."

God is indeed doing new things every day. God has never stopped creating and moving among us. It is up to us to recognize what God is doing in other churches and here at Christ United Church. God Bless. †

Fellowship and Discuss

For where two or three come together in my name there am I with them. Matthew 18:20

Come **Thursday, May 2 at 7:00 pm** to the Crall home in Brook Park. The April meeting was cancelled so we will discuss the April topic, "Christians Shouldn't Judge", from the book *10 Dumb Things Smart Christians Believe* by Larry Osborne. We encourage anyone who is interested to come join us. Our home is open to all and our group welcomes newcomers.

Contact Bonnie by phone, 440-234-2202 or email, bcrall@ameritech.net to inform her you are coming. Bring your Bible and a light refreshment to share (optional). Beverages are provided.

The Crall's home is at 6459 East Vancey Dr., Brook Park (off Sheldon Rd, two streets west of Donte's Restaurant which is located on the corner of St. Rt. 237 and Sheldon Rd.) †

Faith & Film

Please come on **Friday, May 3rd at 6:30 pm** for a screening of the 2018 American comedy-drama film **Green Book**. This is a true story of a road trip tour of the deep South by Jamaican-American musician Don Shirley and his driver/bodyguard companion. The story captures the American cultural milieu in 1962 when segregationist policies still existed. We will discuss the complexity of issues as we enjoy pizza, popcorn, and various desserts. It would be helpful if you could email John King (jking@bw.edu) if you plan to attend the event to get an estimate on attendance numbers.

Dates to Remember

- May 5 – Sunday Out Worship
- May 10 – *Legally Blonde, Jr.* AFDA show
- May 11 – *Legally Blonde, Jr.* AFDA show
- May 19 – Congregational Meeting after worship
- June 2 – Pastor Allan's last Sunday
- June 23 – Outdoor worship and picnic
- July 7 – Pastors Janis and Joel's first Sunday

Warriors Journey Home Remembrance

Twenty-two veterans take their own lives every day. Warriors Journey Home will place a cross with 22 dog tags in Christ United Church's lawn on Memorial Day, May 27 through May 31 to remember our veterans who have taken their own lives. These deaths are not happening somewhere else. They are happening right here in our community. Please remember our veterans on Memorial Day. †

Martha Circle News

Martha Circle thanks the many church members and friends who donated items for our care packages and money towards mailing them to those in college or the military. We sent bountiful boxes to eighteen young persons to let them know that Christ United thinks about them and keeps them in our prayers.

Serving in the military: Gladys and Rick Kershaw's son-in-law in Afghanistan; Andee Whitsett's son, Calvin, who recently enlisted in the Army, and Max Evanko, son of Sue Cather, whose sister, Juli is in our current confirmation class.

In college are: Zack Van Zante who is at Purdue; Corky Wilson's granddaughter, Gabi, at University of South Carolina; two of Joy Stein's grandchildren; three of Wayne Wobser's grandsons; Andee Whitsett's daughter, Minnie, at Kent State and Alec Suehrstedt, Kate and Will Stocker, Amanda Bosley and three of Kate's friends, all at Cleveland State.

Martha Circle, which meets on the second Wednesday of the month year-round, now alternates between service projects and going out for lunch. The next meeting of lunch and fellowship, is on **Wednesday, May 8** at Matteo's Italian Restaurant, 8072 Columbia Rd., Olmsted Falls, in Grand Pacific Junction at **11:30 am**. Martha Circle is no longer just for women - all are invited to join this long-standing church group which carries out God's work with fellowship and service projects in alternating months. Please **RSVP** for Matteo's to **Mary Daily** at **(440)532-7652**. †

Happy Birthday

May

- 1 Nancy Lee Bowser
- 2 Allan Lane
- 3 Dave Zilch
- 8 Della Barclay
- 8 Wayne Wobser
- 9 Becky DePrator
- 15 Liz Krueger
- 16 Judy Luff
- 16 Bob Taylor
- 18 Diana Scudder
- 20 Barb Silvers
- 21 Joy Stein
- 22 David Betts
- 24 Wiltrud Cornish
- 24 Rick Kershaw
- 24 Ed Salzgeber
- 29 Barry Miller
- 31 Ron Fleming



Governing Board News

At the April meeting the Governing Board took the following actions:

The corrected terms of call for Janis and Joel Montgomery were approved.

An estimate for an appraisal of the Front Street property was received. The date for the town hall meeting to receive input from the congregation has not yet been set.

Pastor Allan requested to be released from his contract as Interim Pastor effective June 2, 2019. The Governing Board approved his request with regret. More information will be forthcoming regarding a thank you reception for his service.

Andee Whitsett asked that he and his wife be removed from the rolls of Church United Church. This was also approved with regret. The rolls were reviewed, and 22 members were removed after being contacted and asked if they wished to remain on the membership rolls. Inactivity, no response or moving from the area were the primary reasons for removal. The church constitution requires membership rolls to be reviewed.

The Montgomerys asked for help with the down payment for the purchase of a house. Both denominations have a precedent of assisting any pastor who comes from a church that owned a manse or parsonage. Therefore, a loan was approved; the interest rate will be determined based on the standard rate. †

Upcoming Worship News

Tia Karaplis was our inaugural BW Choral Scholar at CUC. She will be graduating from the BW Music Theatre program on Saturday, May 4. **Her final Sunday** at CUC is **May 5** before she moves to NYC on May 6. We will all miss her beautiful singing voice, calm demeanor and warm personality; join us at Friendship Time following service on the 5th to thank her for sharing her musical gifts with us at CUC.

Save the date for our annual **Summer Outdoor Worship and All-Church Picnic, Sunday, June 23, 10:30 am**, held again this year at Berea's beautiful Coe Lake Picnic Pavilion and hosted by the Worship Committee. We gather for an informal outdoor worship service and the picnic immediately follows the service. Mark your calendar and plan to join us for a fun summer morning celebrating God's beautiful creation. More details to come in the June newsletter. †

Church Street Ministries

The Second Mile Shop of Church Street Ministries needs oversized shopping bags for things like linens and larger items. They would greatly appreciate any donations. If you bring them to the church, Regina Wolfe will take them to the store. Thank you. †

Banner Creating Ministry

Do you like to work with fabrics? Do you sew? Do you like crafting? Do you want to let your creative juices flow? Would you like to explore using all these gifts to create banners for Christ United Church? If so, contact Janet Winzenburger. She is waiting to talk to you. †

Congratulations

Lalene Kay received the Ohio Music Educators Association Distinguished Service Award this year at the OMEA Professional Development Conference in Cleveland in February. Lalene is the Director of the Music Therapy Consortium and Lecturer in Music Therapy at Baldwin Wallace University and is a board-certified music therapist.



She also works as a music therapy consultant at Fairview Hospital Adult Daycare Center. You may see Lalene at Christ United along with her husband and fellow musician, David. †

Dollars and Cents

| March actual | Y-T-D actual | Y-T-D budgeted |
|-----------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Congregational Giving | | |
| \$ 33,633 | \$ 70,429 | \$ 71,799 |
| Building Use/Misc. | | |
| \$ 1,377 | \$ 7,067 | \$ 6,222 |
| Total Income | | |
| \$ 35,010 | \$ 77,496 | \$ 78,021 |
| Total Expenses | | |
| \$ 25,160 | \$ 80,935 | \$ 86,970 |

Congregational giving rebounded significantly in March. Currently we are only \$1,370 below budget. Expenses are below budget by \$6,000.

Financial statements were given out in April. If you have any questions or corrections, please contact David Zilch at 440-826-4183. †

We Get Letters

❖ I would like to share my thanksgiving for all the good wishes, prayers, cards, and soup that helped me through my recent thyroid surgery. It is wonderful to know what a loving church family I have. Blessings, Gladys Kershaw

❖ *This article appeared in the Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR) Newsletter.*

The old printer/copier in our office has been near a mechanical end for some time. Parts have been hard to get, and our vendor can barely keep it running. Enter our angel. Christ United Church went

through a merger that many of us remember. The situation created a spare printer/copier since the church is only needs one of these since the re-organization. Our friends decided to donate the extra printer copier to the ILR where it can replace the older machine that is ending its lifecycle. Bill Luff and Carl Keller checked with BW and found that for a nominal charge, the service vendor under contract to BW will move the gift to our office and recycle the old machine. They also provide maintenance should service be required. The installation is being scheduled as this goes to press. Thank you nice people of Christ United.

❖ *And from Robert Ross, ILR President:*
 . . . formally thank you and your congregation. . . Your gift of the printer/copier means that we do not have to purchase a new machine . . . Thanks again for your generosity and also for allowing us to use your wonderful church for our classes and meetings.

Norovirus Outbreak

Healthy Connections

By Shirley M. Gerecke

Norovirus is a very contagious virus that causes vomiting and diarrhea. **However, norovirus illness is not related to the flu which is caused by influenza virus. It has become rampant in Ohio** and other states in recent months. Anyone can get infected and sick with norovirus. You can get norovirus from having direct contact with an infected person, consuming contaminated food or water, and touching contaminated surfaces then putting your unwashed hands in your mouth. People with norovirus illness can shed billions of norovirus particles and only a few virus particles can make other people sick. **It is sometimes called the stomach flu or stomach bug.**

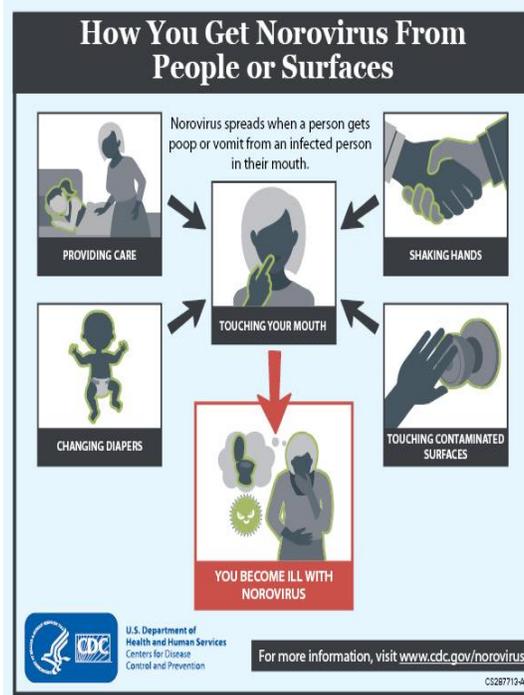
You can get norovirus illness many times in your life because there are many different types of noroviruses. Infection with one type of norovirus may not protect you against other types. It is possible to develop immunity to (protection against) specific types but it is not known exactly how long immunity lasts. This may explain why so many people of all ages get infected during norovirus outbreaks. Norovirus is the most common cause of foodborne diarrhea and vomiting and stomach pain. Other

symptoms include fever, headache and body aches. Norovirus causes inflammation of the stomach or intestines that is called acute gastroenteritis. A person usually develops symptoms 12 to 48 hours after being exposed to norovirus. Most people with norovirus illness get better within 1 to 3 days. If you have norovirus illness, you can feel extremely ill, and vomit or have diarrhea many times a day. This can lead to dehydration, especially in young children, older adults, and people with other illnesses. Symptoms of dehydration include decrease in urination, dry mouth and throat, and feeling dizzy when standing.

You are most contagious when you have symptoms of norovirus illness, especially vomiting, and during the first few days after you recover from norovirus illness. However, studies have shown that you can still spread norovirus for 2 weeks or more after you feel better. Norovirus is the leading cause of illness and outbreaks from contaminated food in the U.S. Most of these outbreaks occur in food service settings like restaurants. Infected food workers are frequently the source of outbreaks, often by touching ready-to-eat foods, such as raw fruits and vegetables, with their bare hands before serving them. However, any food served raw or handled after being cooked can become contaminated with norovirus. **If good hand-washing hygiene is not emphasized**, the norovirus can easily contaminate food and water because it only takes a very small amount of virus particles to make you sick.

Food and water can get contaminated with norovirus in many ways, including when: an infected person touches food with their bare hands that have feces or vomit particles on them; food is placed on a counter or surface that has feces or vomit particles on it; tiny drops of vomit from an infected person spray through the air and land on the food; and the food is grown or harvested with contaminated water, such as oysters harvested from contaminated water, or fruit and vegetables irrigated with contaminated water in the field.

Recreational or drinking water can get contaminated with norovirus and make you sick or



contaminate your food. This can happen at the source such as when a septic tank leaks into a well, when an infected person vomits or feces get in the water, and when water isn't treated properly, such as not enough chlorine.

You can help protect yourself and other from norovirus by washing your hands thoroughly with soap and water and following other simple prevention tips.

Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water to the count of 20 or reciting the alphabet. Always wash after using the toilet or changing diapers; always before eating, preparing, or handling food; and before giving

someone else medicine or yourself. You can use alcohol-based hand sanitizers in addition to hand washing. But you should not use hand sanitizer as a substitute for washing your hands with soap and water. Hand sanitizers aren't as effective at removing norovirus particles.

Clean and disinfect surfaces

After someone vomits or has diarrhea, always thoroughly clean and disinfect the entire area immediately. Put on rubber or disposable gloves, and wipe the entire area with paper towels, then disinfect the area using a bleach-based household cleaner as directed on the product label. Leave the bleach disinfectant on the affected area for at least five minutes then clean the entire area again with soap and hot water. Finish by cleaning soiled laundry, taking out the trash, and washing your hands.

To help make sure that food is safe from norovirus, routinely clean and sanitize kitchen utensils, counters, and surfaces before preparing food. You should use a chlorine bleach solution with a concentration of 1000 to 5000 ppm (5 to 25 tablespoons of household bleach [5% to 8%] per gallon of water) or other disinfectant registered as effective against norovirus by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). †

Information taken from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website: www.cdc.gov

Wider Church News:

An Update on the *Cabeza Nine*

by Don Michaelsen

Following a March 1 hearing in Tucson, US Magistrate Judge Bernardo Velasco issued relatively minor sentences of 15 months' unsupervised probation and a \$250 to each of the first four *No More Deaths* (NMD) volunteers. They had been convicted in mid-January of entering a national wildlife refuge without a permit, driving in a wilderness area and "abandonment of property." On Feb. 21 federal prosecutors dropped misdemeanor charges against four other NMD volunteers [Natalie Hoffman, 23, of Tucson; Oona Holcomb, 39, of St. Paul, MN; Madeline Huse, 23, of Bellingham, WA; and Zaachila Orozco-McCormick, 21, of Seattle] for their humanitarian aid work in the same refuge. A ninth defendant, Scott Warren, 35, of Tempe [an NMD volunteer and an Arizona State University professor] faces both misdemeanor charges for his aid work in the Cabeza Refuge as well as three federal felony charges of "alien smuggling." He could see up to 20 years in federal prison, if convicted. His trials are set for May. † *SOURCES: NoMoreDeaths.org; Feb. 21 TucsonSentinal.com; March 8 LATimes.com*

Interfaith Efforts to Reduce Firearms Addiction and Violence

by Don Michaelsen

On Martin Luther King Day in January 2011, 24 national faith groups formed *Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence* (FUPGV). Today there are over 50 faith organizations (Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Sikh) including "God Before Guns" (GBG). FUPGV calls on the current US Congress to pass legislation [H.R. 8] that:

- Requires criminal background checks on all gun sales;
- Bans military-style assault weapons and high-capacity magazines;
- Makes gun trafficking a federal crime.

"God Before Guns" is a coalition of people of faith in northeast Ohio. It was co-founded by Rev. Kristine Eggert in May 2013 in the wake of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shootings. She continues to serve as executive director. Prior to that, Kristine served eight years as senior pastor of the Disciples Christian Church of Cleveland Heights

[Note: CUC's Kathy Smith serves on this congregation's staff as the Young Disciples Director].

The mission of the GBG coalition continues to be:

- To curb gun violence and the proliferation of weapons;
- Committed to the belief that faith communities must lead efforts to build God's Peace;
- To end our nation's extreme addition to possession of firearms.

In Cleveland on April 16, GBG and Pilgrim UCC co-sponsored "Beating Guns" workshop led by Shane Clairborne and Mike Martin [authors of the book *Beating Guns*], which is part of a 31-city tour for the duo. Participants witnessed a military-issued weapon re-formed into a garden tool {i.e., Isaiah 2:4 "... they shall beat their swords into plowshares"}. † *SOURCES: FaithsUnited.org; GodBeforeGuns.org; DisciplesChristian.org.*

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