

Worship
With Us
Sundays
10AM

The Courier

Large print
bulletins
and hearing
devices
available to
aid in
worship

First Congregational Church, Elyria,
Ohio. June / July, 2019 courier@firstcongeyria.org

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is one of the three Persons of The Blessed Trinity. The Holy Spirit is often depicted as a dove. This depiction comes from the Gospel accounts of the baptism of Jesus where The Holy Spirit descends like a dove after Jesus is baptized. The Holy Spirit is prominent in the Pentecost story.

We are told how the first believers are gathered in the upper room with locked doors, when suddenly a loud rush of wind was heard and tongues of Fire came to rest over each of those gathered. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to make bold proclamations. The first believers leave the safety of the locked room and go forth proclaiming Jesus As The Christ and speaking of God's unconditional love, made known through Jesus The Christ. The Holy Spirit is responsible for breathing life into the world; and through the prompting of The Spirit, guides the Church and each of us. The Holy Spirit speaks to each of us and moves us towards God's unconditional love and acceptance.

May we be open to the power of The Holy Spirit, moving and working through each of our lives. May we allow The Holy Spirit to fill each of us and like those first believers, be moved to make bold proclamations that God's love is open and available to all.

Come Holy Spirit and kindle within us the fire of Your Divine love!

-Pastor Patrick

A Thank You to Marty Perry

For the past decade, Marty has shared her baking skills with us by providing our bread for Communion. Marty has let me know that it is time for her let go of this task. I extend my thank you and that of our congregation to Marty for her dedication, kindness, and unfailing commitment to First Church. We will share Marty's bread baking talents one last time during communion in June. Once again, thank you Marty! -Pastor Patrick

Pentecost Sunday. June 9, 2019

Confirmation

Confirmation will occur on Pentecost Sunday, June 9th during the Worship service. First Church will have 5 young people Confirmed. Be sure to attend Worship on June 9th for this wonderful celebration.

Music from the Belfry

Sunday, June 9th is Pentecost Sunday,

the day we celebrate the birth of the Church and the Descent of The Holy Spirit upon the first believers.

To complement our celebration of Pentecost and our Confirmation class, we will have musicians from Baldwin Wallace playing brass instruments in the Belfry.

The music will begin at approximately at 9:15 am and continue till 10:00 am.

The music will be heard throughout the central city of Elyria.

This is First Church's gift to the community and a special way of marking the gift of The Holy Spirit as we celebrate Pentecost Sunday and our newly confirmed members.

Open your windows to hear the music or come early and enjoy the music outside the Church building.

Let's talk about communion...

According to the preamble of the constitution of the United Church of Christ: "In accordance with the teaching of Our Lord and the practice prevailing among evangelical Christians, the UCC recognizes two sacraments: Baptism and The Lord's Supper or Holy Communion". These sacraments are ritual and sacred actions of worship which, according to scripture, were instituted by Jesus. When we partake in Communion, we enter into an intimate experience of fellowship in which the whole church in every time and place is present and divisions are overcome. Through this sacred action, we are united together with our ancestors, with all Christian churches regardless of denominational separations, and one another within our own walls, and through that unity we "re-member" Christ's body and experience his presence. Truly as members of the UCC, a church whose motto states we live in hope "that they all may be one", we can understand the importance this sacrament should have during our services. This was the Faith Team's main reason for our focus on weekly Communion as we discussed what could be done to bring more intention and meaning to our Worship here at First Church. At a time when division is evident all around us, generationally, socio-economically, ideologically, and so on; weekly intentional participation in experiencing Christ's presence through unifying ourselves as one body only makes sense. So we invite you all to join us with anticipation each week at Christ's table where we are one unified body of believers who are hopeful for the realization of the promised realm of God, marked by justice, peace, and love. Amen.

-Anthony Beall and the Faith Team

Youth and Young Adult News

Kentucky

The Lotts Creek Kentucky mission immersion trip will be

Friday, June 21st through Friday, June 28th.

Registration forms are now available.

Contact Pastor Patrick for information and registration.

All participant should be registered no later than **Monday, June 3, 2019.**

The mission trip is open to all adults and kids in grades 6 and above.

The cost of the trip is **\$150.00** for youth 18 and younger.

Register and join us for this life changing mission experience.

C.Y.A.T.C.

The Young adult group meets each Wednesday. The group is open to all Young Adults ages 18 and above. All are welcome. The group begins each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. And ends at 9:00 p.m. Come and make some new friends reconnect with old ones or just come and have a great discussion and fun. The meeting dates for June and July 2019 are below:

**June 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th.
July 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st**

The God Squad

· This summer the lower level youth room will be open to all youth. If you would like to come to the youth room, please text Pastor Patrick before you come up. Feel free to come in and hang out!

· Beginning **Thursday, June 6** we will meet every Thursday evening in June, July and August, although we will not meet July 4th.

· Join us on **Sunday, June 9** at the 10:00 service when many of the God Squad members will be confirmed.

· **June 21-28** some of our members will be traveling to Lotts Creek in KY for the mission trip.

· **August 23-25** we will be camping in Huron, Ohio – please see Pastor Patrick for more information and a permission form.

· We are planning a trip to the **Lorain County Fair in August**, date is still TBA.

Community breakfasts are put on hold for the summer, but will start back up in September.

God Squad will host the bounce house again during the Apple Festival.

In **October** we would like to host a **spaghetti dinner** fundraiser, details to come.

If you have any questions about any events or activities please see Pastor Patrick, Erin Smith or Andrew Page.

What's Happening

School Supplies Collection

It's that time of year again!

It's time to start collecting school supplies for our annual **Backpack Blessings** project.

Donations of school supplies will be accepted June 2 – August 4, 2019.

There is a collection box for your donations in the coat room by the sanctuary.

Lists of desired supplies are available throughout the church, online and by email.

To request a list, contact Tracy at 323-5454 ext. 15 or by email at

tbelcher@firstconglyria.org .

VBS IS BACK!

Vacation Bible School will be August 5-9, 5:30-8:00pm at Washington Ave. Christian Church.

The theme is "Embrace the Fruits of the Spirit", and we will once again be partnering with Washington Ave. Christian Church and Community of Faith UCC.

We will be having family dinner from 5:30-6:00pm for parents that might not have time to cook, but want to eat with their kids. From 6:00-6:15, we're having what we're calling Family Fun and Fellowship, which will be a chance for parents and kids to have some fun together before we begin our opening with the kids.

We will of course need volunteers for this to be a success. If you would like to help out, please contact Tracy at 323-5454 ext. 15, or by email at tbelcher@firstconglyria.org.

SAVE THESE DATES FOR FELLOWSHIP!

July 21 @ 4pm -Pizza/Pool Party
Our summertime social at the Yosts
see Details in this Courier

August 11 @ 1pm -All UCC Church Picnic
It's our turn to host this uniting event.

October 20 @ 10am -Laity Sunday!
After Worship we will have a special Fellowship Celebration Reception

Questions?
Suggestions?
Offers of help?

Please call Ken Smith: (440)453-9177 or email y2kensit@gmail.com

Many groups and individuals use our church space over the summer months. Stop by any time to visit with whomever is here. Look around for things you can do to enhance our space, and the experience of those who use it. (I'm sure Rick or Taquala can find a dust cloth, watering can, or a glass cleaner bottle that fits your hand.) Make a friend or acquaintance. Build relationships. This is our church.

WE ARE THE CHURCH.
Own it.

Salvation Army Hot Meals

We are still looking for cooks/helpers for the 6:00 p.m. Hot Meal the **3rd Sunday in September**. Call Mary Haskins at 322-4905 to volunteer.

The Food Pantry is still looking for a few willing helpers... Contact Mary Haskins

Let's keep these worthwhile projects going!!

-Mary Haskins

Please help the kids!

This August Church Women United will pack 60 school kits to be distributed through Church World Service.

I have committed First Church to providing 30 boxes of Crayola crayons - 24 count **ONLY**. (Mt. Zion will provide the other 30 boxes.)

If you are willing to buy one or more boxes, please call me (322-3256) or simply give them to me at church.

Thanks in advance for your help.
Carol Haywood,

First Church rep to Church Women United

PIZZA!

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The Fellowship Team will be hosting the Annual Pizza/Pool party at Bob and Brenda Yost's on **Sunday July 21st** beginning at 5pm with dinner served around 5pm. Everyone's invited!! Sign up sheets available for planning purposes.

Lorenzo's Pizzeria of Oberlin will be there with "The Beautiful Flame".

We are asking that everyone bring a salad, side dish or dessert to share, your own beverage of choice, lawn chairs and of course, your bathing suit and beach towels!!

Don't worry non-swimmers; there will be plenty of conversation and fun times for you, too!!

A freewill donation bucket will be available for anyone wishing to contribute to the cost of the pizza.

So mark your calendars for a fun time on **Sunday, July 21st!!**

FROM YOUR MODERATOR:

Are we living into our future story? Are we the church we planned to be ten years ago as we wrote that future story?

We are welcoming more and more groups into our building. We are reaching out to the community. But are we, the **people** of First Church, really involved? Really welcoming? Or just offering space without the fellowship and commitment needed to establish a true relationship with those who cross our paths? Some are quick to criticize. But few are there to be truly involved. Respect is learned. It is earned. By all participants in a situation. It is up to us as landlords and as Christians, to earn that respect for ourselves, our beliefs, and our building. It will not happen overnight, and it will not happen without some involvement and examples set by US, the congregation. Please share your thoughts, feelings, and observations with me.

-Genny Dangerfield

**First Church Book Club
June 12th
and July 10th, 2019**

Please feel free to join us any time you like.

We have a brief discussion and snacks in the Gathering Room at 7:00 pm on the second Wednesday of each month.

Our June Book is:

***By Invitation Only,
by Dorothea B. Frank***

The Reading for July is
***Little Fires Everywhere
By Celeste Ng***

In August we will meet with the North Ridgeville UCC book club for a picnic outing.

Won't you please join us?

From the Faith Team

At our last meeting, Pastor Patrick suggested the Faith Team making 1,000 origami cranes to grace the Sanctuary.

When all 1,000 cranes have been created, they will be hung in the Sanctuary. The Faith team will provide the necessary instructions to make each crane.

Look for more information and instructions in the near future.

Courtyard

You will notice that once again the tables, chairs, and umbrellas grace the courtyard space.

Believe it or not these are not there just to make the space look more inviting. Instead they are in place for the courtyard to be used.

Please come and enjoy a wonderful quiet place in the heart of Elyria.

The courtyard is a beautiful place to sit, relax, read a book, have lunch, or chat with friends. I will often wander out into the court yard and enjoy the quiet or just the warm weather.

Perhaps you might find me out there and we could have a marvelous conversation. Looking forward to sharing the courtyard with you this summer.

-Pastor Patrick

Please read and respond to your moderator's brief message presented in this Courier regarding First Church and our Future Story.

It's time to evaluate our progress and revise our expectations if need be.

-Genny Dangerfield, Courier Editor

Book Study

The National Offices Of
The United Church of Christ
has suggested what is known as an all Church
read.

It is suggested that the entire denomination
reads the same book and then discuss
the content.

I though that this would be a wonderful activity
for First Church to engage in, especially given
the number of educators in our congregation.

The book is entitled

Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City

by Matthew Desmond. We will have copies of
the book available for people to purchase.

The text deals with the multitude of issues
confronting people and families who find
themselves existing in homelessness and
poverty.

I believe this will be a excellent book to expand
our understanding of homelessness, poverty,
and the resulting causalities.

We will come together for a discussion of the
text on two different dates to ensure
accommodation of schedules.

The discussion will occur on
**Tuesday, July 16th at 6:30 pm and again on
Wednesday, July 17th at 1:30 pm.**

Please join in this reading and discussion, I
believe it will be quite thought provoking
and personally rewarding.

-Pastor Patrick

Coming up this summer

Visiting Group

First Church will once again host the youth
group from First Congregational Church of
Western Springs Illinois.

The group will be arriving on Friday evening,
June 7th and depart the morning of June
8th.

This will be the third year this youth group
has stayed at first Church.

The group consists of about 35 people,
including adults.

Feel free to stop by and spend some time
with these dedicated young people.

We look forward to hosting this delightful
group once again and giving them a place to
sleep on their way home from their mission
trip to Washington, D.C.

If your summer is busy with family,
vacations, chores, and a multitude of other
obligations, take a little time to come to
church at 8:45 on Sunday mornings.

Make some self-time for meditation and a
quiet time with God. The summer early
service is there just for you.

The Courier is published monthly. All interested parties are encouraged to contribute articles.

Please send articles and announcements via email to: courier@firstcongelyria.org

Deadline for August, 2019 articles is July 15, 2019

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Change Service Requested Dated Material
Please deliver by May 25, 2019

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8:45 am Worship added to the summer schedule

Beginning on Sunday, June 16, 2019 and continuing through the summer, there will be an additional worship each Sunday at 8:45 am.

This worship service will consist of prayers, scripture readings, and communion. It is designed to last approximately 30 minutes. The service will also have time for quiet reflection.

First Church Staff

Reverend Patrick Nicolino, Pastor. Bette Lou Higgins, Administrative Assistant, ext. 10. Andrew Page, Business Manager. Tracy Belcher, Education and Outreach Coordinator. Dylan Sanzenbacher, Organist and Choir Director. Ross Kingman, Campanella Ringers Director. Genny Dangerfield, Courier Editor.(courier@firstcongelyria.org), Candice Dangerfield, Artist in Residence. Rick Lawrence, Sexton. Taquala and Rex, Assistant Sextons.