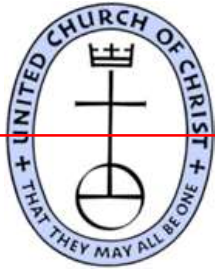


# Koinonia

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Communications of Our Church Life  
First Congregational Church  
of Wyandotte

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## *The Pastor's Musings*

Happy Easter! April Fools!

It has been an education in human nature as I have read the pro/anti arguments about incorporating April Fools Day on Easter Sunday. Some people love the idea and want to indulge in the humor of the days coinciding. Others see it as an affront to the solemnity of the celebration. Although I don't see myself incorporating April Fools day into our Easter celebration, it does have a theological ring to it.



Jesus crucified and dead? April Fools! God has other plans!

Or, as I have said often ... God always wins (and doesn't fight fair, btw). Truly, the deck is stacked always in God's favor, and for that we should be eternally grateful. The resurrection of Jesus reminds us that God is in control. Grace and mercy will win the day no matter how awful the fight. As an Easter people, resurrection is what we proclaim ... always. To quote Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber:

"The Christian faith, while wildly misrepresented in so much of American culture, is really about death and resurrection. It's about how God continues to reach into the graves we dig for ourselves and pulls us out, giving us new life, in ways both dramatic and small." (Pastrix)

And that is important for us to remember. The Christian faith is not just about what happens to us when we die and leave this physical world. It is about bringing new life to us over and over and over again in our life here and now. No matter what we face, God is in the battle with us so that new life can arise.

That doesn't mean that new life comes easily. We can be tempted to remain "in the grave" which is known and comfortable when the fight to live a new way becomes painful. For example: Addicts will tell you that the lure of "the high" that wipes away all pain for a moment is always lurking in the backdrop of their lives. For them, resurrection is a daily battle to remain clean; especially when life is difficult.

That battle is one we all can understand at some level. The fight to hold onto what is known in the face of change can be a formidable opponent. It demands we trust God's wisdom and bravely step out into the unknown. We call that faith.

On Sunday, April 8th, we will have our rescheduled Annual Meeting in Fellowship Hall after Service at 10:30am. There will be light refreshments served. On April 22nd, we welcome Rev. Geoff Drutchas from St. Paul's UCC in Taylor as the downriver UCC clergy engage in a pulpit swap. I know you will welcome him warmly.

I hope you have a blessed Easter season and rejoice in the coming of spring and the new life God brings to us all. Be kind to one another and, as always, don't forget to pray for this church community and its pastor.

God's continued blessings  
Rev. Carrie O.

## April



### Birthdays

07 – Helen McNeilly  
09 – Donna Harvey  
11 – Nina Caitlin Renner  
19 – Rick Graves, Revonda Kuderik  
20 – Nancy Clark

### Weddings

05 – Ed and Florence Hageman (1968)  
14 – Kevin and Judy Kales (2007)  
27 – John and Nadine Cook (1968)  
28 – John Renner/Lauren Metiver-Renner (2007)

### Enrollments

07 – Ellen Fairchild, Florence Hageman (1955)  
10 – Roger Affholter (1952)  
10 – Wayne and Susan McKenney (1983)  
15 – Margery Surowitz (1962)



### Church Mice

To help avoid pest issues, we are asking that food of any kind not be left on the kitchen counters. Thank you for your help!



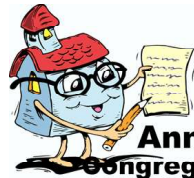
## Worship Schedule for Holy Week

### Holy Week and Easter Services

*Palm/Passion Sunday:* March 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am. We begin in Fellowship Hall.

*Maundy Thursday:* March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. We will celebrate communion.

*Easter Sunday:* April 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:30 am. We will celebrate communion and there will be an Easter Egg hunt for our youngest members.



### Annual Congregational Meeting

Our Annual Meeting will take place on *Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup>*, in Fellowship Hall. Small refreshments will be served. We are sorry for the confusion and thank you for your patience in the meeting delay. Packets for the meeting are available after each Sunday Service.

### Annual Easter Egg Hunt

The Sunday School will be holding its annual egg hunt on *Easter Sunday*, and we would love your help! If you have small, stuffable trinkets that you can donate, please see Brianna Niefert, Susan Medley, or any other Sunday School teacher. We also give each child a small treat bag, so if you are able to share an item or make a donation toward a small, religious gift, please let us know. Thank you for your help

### Summer Lunch Program

Our church is partnering with the Wyandotte Ministerial Association to ensure that Wyandotte children don't go hungry during the summer months! We are preparing food sandwiches, packing lunches and distributing them at local playgrounds, and bagging up food items for weekend meals.

Please sign up in fellowship hall if you have a few hours to give this summer, or see Colleen Niefert, Sarah Pettigrew, or Rev. Carrie for details

### Blessings in a Backpack

We are beginning to collect items for the summer Blessings in a Backpack program, and we need your help! By the beginning of June, our church is attempting to collect 1800 packs of individually wrapped cheese and crackers or peanut butter crackers (made by brands like Austin and Keebler, but any brand and any size pack is accepted). These crackers will go in bags to help feed children from our community this summer while school is out. We will have a box in the back of the sanctuary where you may leave crackers, or if you would like to make a donation towards the crackers, please see Colleen Niefert, Sarah Pettigrew, or Pastor Carrie.

*Continued Prayers for:* Bettie Graham; Dolores Martina; Donna Burnette; Ed and Debbie I Florence Hageman; Helen McNeilly; Len and Alice Mahoney; Michelle Eggleton; Patricia Ht Cari Eggleton; Phyllis Eggleton; Rachel Schell and her family; Scott Johnson; Scott Randall; Steve and Carol Ellison; Trudi Pemberton.



#### PRAYERS FOR:

- \*Bob Niefert:-for his friend Matt, who is on his 5<sup>th</sup> deployment overseas. He is in Qatar.
- \*Sharon Heineman:- for Uncle Jesse, having lung transplant.
- \*Prayers for health for Pam DiNunzio's step-cousin, Vicky.
- \*Betty Scanland: - Continued prayers for my husband Jerry, recovering from knee surgery.
- \*Sue Forsman: - Continued prayers for grandson, Emmett.
- \*Steve Treloar:- prayers that we can achieve our goal for housekeeping issues and needed repairs.
- \*Betty Scanland:- "Christianity:- come as servants with honesty, authenticity, treating others with dignity and respect – never use our faith as a weapon, but a shield." – following the example of St. Patrick.
- \*Rev. Carrie - Prayers for David Opra and his wife, their friend Alice passed away. Prayers for CJ. Prayers for Michigan State playing in the NCAA Basketball Tournament this afternoon.
- \* Carol Olszewski - Her niece's twins are gaining weight but are still in the NICU. Prayers for her cousin Ellen and her husband Jim. Ellen is having surgery to repair broken bones from a fall.
- \*Julie Roberts - Prayers for her mom Debbie Holmes who will be visiting California.
- \*Debbie Stollings-Prayers that the results from some medical tests turn out okay.
- \*Cody Kellerman - former member visiting today, prayers for his brother.
- \*Susan Nash - Prayers for her Aunt Sadie, she's having tests tomorrow.
- \*Pam Pintar - Prayers for a safe trip to Italy for her son Michael and his wife.
- \*Jim Eggleton - Prayers for John Jones who recently lost his father; Prayers for himself, he's back at his old job.

#### CONDOLENCES

\*to the family and friends of Dr. Alice Shanaver, who passed away on March 15, 2018.

#### *Joys/Thanks/Answers to Prayers*

- \*Judy and Kevin Kales: - for Judy's mom, Edythe Johnson, who is returned to good health. Thanks for the prayers.
- \*Rev. Carrie - UofM is in the "Sweet 16" portion of the NCAA Basketball Tournament. Her Uncle Richard's tumor is benign.
- \*Ken Orlando - Today is the Pastor's Birthday.
- \*Debbie Stollings - Wonderful to see Rosey in church this morning. She came here directly after working all night.
- \*Betty Scanland - She can see much better after her eye surgery and will see even better after she gets her new glasses.
- \*Pam Pintar - She's going to be a grandma, her son and his wife are expecting.
- \*Mike Niefert - Mike thanked God for giving him a sense of humor; he was on a trip to Tennessee with his wife Colleen and their friend Pam DiNunzio.
- \*Karen Nitta - Thankful to be all moved in to Bishop Co-op.
- \*Cody Kellerman - So happy to be visiting his former church.

### **Vista Maria**

We will be taking a tour of Vista Maria foster care center, school, and residences on *Thursday, April 12 at 6pm*, and would love to have you join us! If you have ever been curious about how to help foster children or if you would just like to see what the facility is like, please come along! There is a sign up sheet in fellowship hall.

Most of us wear them, usually we don't see them, we're hoping you'll help collect them! Yes, it's true...it's underwear! In anticipation of our visit to Vista Maria, we are collecting packages of women's underwear. In particular demand are sizes 5/6 and up to size 3X. These items will be distributed at the Vista Maria residence where women who have aged out of the foster care system are able to live and transition into adulthood. We will be collecting underwear *until we go on our April 12 tour*

# April 2018 Reading And Sermons

## April 01, 2018

*Easter and Communion Sunday*

Old Testament: Isaiah 25:6-9

Epistle: Acts 10:34-43

Gospel: Mark 16:1-8

Sermon Title: Now What?

Overview: The Gospel of Mark has two endings. The latter ending is not found in the earliest manuscripts we have of the Gospel. The first ending is very different from the other Gospels in that it has the women remaining silent. It begs the question; how then did the Good News of Jesus' resurrection get spread? It also gives us the chance to ask ourselves, do we remain quiet about how God is working in our lives? How is God calling us to live as a resurrected people?

## April 08, 2018

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Philippians 4:4-9

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: John 20:19-31

Sermon Title: Be the Church – Enjoy Life

Overview: We have spent eight weeks looking at ways to “Be the Church”. We can often get so caught up in the “dos and don'ts” of faith that we forget that life is a gift given to us. We are to enjoy what we have been given by God. How do you enjoy your life? How do you see rest and enjoyment as a part of your Christian faith?

## April 15, 2018

Acts Reading: Acts 3:12-19

Epistle: 1 John 3:1-7

Gospel: Luke 24:36b-48

Sermon Title: TBD

Overview: Today we welcome Rev. Ralph Brown while Rev. Carrie is away.

## April 22, 2018

Acts Reading: Acts 4:5-12

Epistle: 1 John 3:16-24

Gospel: John 10:11-18

Sermon Title: TBD

Overview: Today the downriver UCC Pastors are engaging in a Pulpit Swap. We welcome Rev. Geoff Drutchas from St. Paul's UCC in Taylor while Rev. Carrie worships with the good people of St. Paul's.

## April 29, 2018

Acts Reading: Acts 8:26-40

Epistle: 1 John 4:7-21

Gospel: John 15:1-8

Sermon Title: Pruning Season

Overview: Gardeners will tell you that pruning trees and bushes is important if you want them to grow and bloom to their potential. We are no different. If we want to be people of faith who reflect the nature of a loving God, we need to be willing to let go of attitudes and behaviors that keep us from reaching our potential. What in your life do you hold onto that keeps you from living to your potential as a disciple of Jesus Christ? How has these past weeks of “Be the Church” challenged you to live differently?



**at FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH ACTIVITIES**

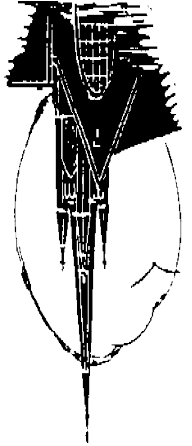
- 2nd – Brownie Scouts Meet*
- 7th – Spirit of Hope (Detroit Soup Kitchen)*
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Annual Congregational Meeting*
- 10th - Officers and Council Meet*
- 16<sup>th</sup> - “Wine, Women and The Word” group meets.*
- 18th – 1:00pm - “Lunch Bunch” meets.*
- 18th- 7:00pm - Sunday School Teachers Meet*
- 18th -7:00pm - Knit/Crochet/Prayer Ministry Meets*

Every Tuesday morning at 10:00am – Bible Study Group Meets  
 Each Wednesday and Saturday, 12:00 noon – 1:00pm – Waynewright Community Meals  
 Each Wednesday evening at 7:00pm – Alcoholics Anonymous Meets



Our pastor is the Reverend Carrie Orlando. The newsletter editor is Joy Graves. Our church's phone number is (734)285-2568. Website: 1st-congregational.org

The KOINONIA is the newsletter of the First Congregational Church of Wyandotte. Our goal is to share our news with those who share a belief in Christ. We welcome all to our Sunday Worship Service at 10:30 a.m. Nursery and children's activities are provided during worship time.



**First Congregational Church  
 United Church of Christ  
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