

Parish Visitor

August 2020

Volume LIII, Issue 8
We're on the Web at:
mvucc.org



**Sunday
Schedule
Worship
9:30 AM
Sanctuary**

Fellowship Time
following
Worship
Social Hall

**Church School and
Adult Forum
11:00 AM
Upstairs/Chapel**

**Rev. Elliott's
Email:**

revscottelliott@mvucc.org

**Church Office
Manager's
Email:**

secretary@mvucc.org

Church Phone:
740-393-1736

**We are an Open
And Affirming
Congregation**

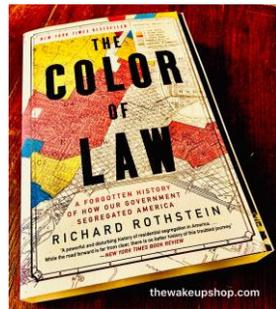


*Happy
Anniversary*

**186th Anniversary
Our church celebrated its
186th Anniversary on
Sunday, July 26th**

We started in 1834 and are still going strong!

Happy Anniversary First Congregational United Church of Christ!



Overcoming Racism Class

**Starts August 24
Monday's at 6:30 pm
Location: Outside pavilion at
First Church of the Nazarene
807 Coshocton Ave**

THE 2020 OVERCOMING RACISM CLASS IS PLANNED

Pastor Scott is helping to put together the Fifth Annual Overcoming Racism Class. This year the class will be using the book *The Color of Law* (by Richard Rothstein) for the community. The hour-long classes will be on Mondays at 6:30 pm starting August 24. For safety purposes we will meet outside at the First Church of Nazarene pavilion (807 Coshocton Ave). Picnic tables are available; however, participants may want to bring their own lawn chair. You can purchase the book at Paragraphs Books (at discount rate of \$15.29). The six-week chapter reading breakdown for the class looks like this:

August 24 - Chapter 1 "If San Francisco, Then Everywhere" &
Chapter 2 "Public Housing, Black Ghettos"

August 31 - Chapter 3 "Racial Zoning" &
Chapter 4 "Own Your Own Home"

September 7 - Chapter 5 "Private Agreements, Government Enforcement,"
Chapter 6 "White Flight," &
Chapter 7 "IRS Support and Compliant Regulators"

September 14 - Chapter 8 "Local Tactics" &
Chapter 9 "State-Sanctioned Violence"

September 21 - Chapter 10 "Suppressed Income" &
Chapter 11 "Looking Forward, Looking Back"

September 28 - Chapter 12 "Considering Fixes" & "Epilogue."

Everyone is invited for a respectful and dynamic dialog on overcoming racism.



FROM THE PASTOR...

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This newsletter will arrive a few days after the church's one-hundred-and-eighty-sixth birthday. The church began on July 26, 1834 and has been acting as the Body of Christ in our community ever since. Happy Birthday Mount Vernon First Congregational United Church of Christ!

Other than signaling a long existence a 186th birthday is not usually one lifted up as particularly special, since we tend to make special the anniversary years with zeros or fives on the end. But this year our church birthday occurs in a very unique time. Because of a pandemic we have not been holding regular worship services or classes for a number of months. This likely happened once before during the 1919-1920 pandemic when churches closed to stop the spread of a terrible disease. So, it's a good year to lift up and celebrate not just existing another year, but surviving to exist into the next year.

A hundred years ago things were much worse. The disease affected a higher percentage of lives and families. I offer prayers of gratitude that the 2020 pandemic is not as bad as it might be. In 1919 and 1920 people were also worse off with respect to connecting with others, they could not communicate with their loved ones over the internet or phones like we do. Along those lines, churches could not post an on-line presence or services; at best they could mail out newsletters. We are communication-wise also much better off than our predecessors and I offer up prayers of gratitude for progress and our ability to stay in touch too. There is hope in that.

I find much more hope and gratitude, however, in the fact that somehow our church came through those much more difficult times. One of the pastors who led the way in 1919 and a part of 1920 was Rev. M.S. Freeman. In 1920 Rev. David Pike took up the mantle and completed the leadership out of pandemic years. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to those two pastors, as well as the solid church leadership and the dedicated members from those times. Without them and the grace of God we would not exist today. We can find so much hope in what they did. The church survived and thrived after that earlier pandemic. We can too. And we will. The grace of God is with us, and so is solid church leadership and a dedicated congregation. We are making it through this and Mount Vernon First Congregational United Church of Christ will survive and thrive for many, many more years- and plenty of anniversary years with zeros or fives on the end.

All of you, and the church are in my prayers in this difficult time. Please let me know if there is anything the church or I can do to help you.

I continue to miss all of you.

Your Brother in Christ,
Rev. Scott Elliott



Special Thanks to Laura, Christa, Charlotte and Scott M., for their continuing efforts on all services! Thanks to Brad for work on the building. Thanks to Scott M., Carolyn and Christine for continued work helping to keep the church running during the pandemic. Thanks to our on-site Hot Meals team workers: Beth, Cindy, Tom, Cherrie, Jim, Karen, Denny W., Earl, and Barbara. Thanks to the church board and the church and ministry committee for their work on our special outdoor service. A very special thanks to all the volunteers and staff who worked on the outdoor service: Laura, Scott M. Carolyn, Christine, Denny, Bobbie, Linda, Karen, Becky, and Megan.



Online Services:

Week of July 5th:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ie4NoGn-4W4&feature=youtu.be>

Week of July 12th:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U8zyXUJ5myo&feature=youtu.be>

Week of July 19th:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PrDxoX9tbFc&t=529s>

Week of July 26th:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MIMA1Q8mb4A&t=577s&fbclid=IwAR3_rsCv2JG2VwxT-Pe9OxdIK-o6ySDG4mNgIfCj2DM83jiKJzMVounpuv0

Pastor's Vlog Links:



Week of July 5th:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cNRyXdOhpWQ&feature=youtu.be>

Week of July 12th:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ntExpUnQtt0&feature=youtu.be>

Week of July 19th:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V715b8YNhtE&t=4s>

Week of July 26th:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7cHkvS-awn0>



Children's Story Links:

Week of July 5th:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cp1CuMJfgIw>

Week of July 12th:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L8yv2SP2yxY&feature=youtu.be>

Week of July 19th:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cjQJ0Dr4BQg&t=18s>

Week of July 26th:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nmn-7IK72c&fbclid=IwAR3_CINdG977R98h7zJVPoZbxsHSjQYDDHV1XkyM-i2Qp2Ae4xUh424gZhQgZhQ





CHURCH RULES DURING THE PANDEMIC

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- The building remains closed to group gatherings not pre-approved by the pastor. We are holding worship on-line at mvucc.org.
- The office hours during the “stay-at-home” pandemic orders are Monday through Thursday 9 am to noon and 1 pm to 3 pm; Friday 9 am to noon. The public may ring the doorbell in the courtyard during those hours or call 740-393-1736. For safety reasons entrance to the building will only be allowed when necessary and on a case by case basis.
- Upon entry to the building everyone must wear a mask, sanitize their hands, sign in, stay six feet apart and not gather in a group larger than ten people. No one known to be ill may enter.
- No more than 100 people may be in the building at any time. And no more than 10 people in a room at a time.
- Construction workers may only use the rounded stairway on the south; and the 2nd floor restroom closest to the sanctuary and must comply with the new state rules applying to construction workers.

Sorry for any inconvenience. Please stay safe. Pray for the world, our leaders and essential workers.



ELECTRONIC GIVING OPTION NOW AVAILABLE FOR OFFERINGS!

If anyone is interested in providing offerings to the church through electronic means we have signed up for the app called “Tithe.ly.” If you would like to start giving to the church through the app you should be able to at your friendly neighbor app store. Make sure to list us as the recipient church. Ian can answer any questions. Thank you in advance for any electronic offerings through Tithe.ly!



Amazon Smiles

If you use Amazon.com for on-line ordering, please consider making First Congregational United Church of Christ as your charity and Amazon will donate a small part of each of your purchases to our church. The trick is that once you set up your account with the Amazon Smiles program, you need to order from smile.amazon.com instead of amazon.com. Here's the link to get started

<https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/homepage?orig=Lw==> and then choose First Congregational United Church of Christ with location in Mount Vernon, Ohio as your charity when you set up your account. If you need help, contact Jeanne Mullendore.



Kroger Cares Reward Program

New Number for Kroger Rewards - We have a new organizational number for the Kroger Community Rewards program: FK329. If you previously signed up with the old number or haven't renewed in the last year, check the bottom of your receipt to see if you are still enrolled and the funds are being directed to our church. If you need to make any changes, go to

<https://www.kroger.com/signin?redirectUrl=/account/%20enrollCommunityRewardsNow/>.



OUR FACEBOOK GROUP LINK:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/826101061135331>



SCOTT STILL HAS OFFICE

HOURS: Pastor Scott is still keeping office hours at the church from Saturday to Wednesday. If you need pastoral care please contact Scott at the office by email

(revscottelliott@mvucc.org) or by phone 740-393-1736. If needed, he can also be reached at home 740-326-1542.



OFFICE HOURS:
Mon-Thurs 9-12 and 1-3
Friday 9-12



MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS CONTINUE TO BE POSTPONED OR CANCELLED. All in-person classes and in-person worship remain cancelled. Gatherings at the church still must be preapproved in writing by Pastor Scott.

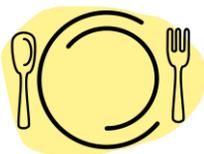


OFFERS TO HELP DELIVER NECESSITIES FOR MEMBERS NOT ABLE OR COMFORTABLE TO GO OUT.

The Bartsch family has graciously offered to help deliver food, medicines or other necessities for church members unable or uncomfortable going out. You can contact Bryan for help at 419-566-6604.

CROP Hunger Walk 2020

"The Mount Vernon CROP Hunger Walk will be a Virtual Walk on Sunday, Oct. 18. Plan to walk on your own or with immediate family. Brian Miller will be the UCC team captain. 740-427-4010 (cell). Details will follow."



HOT MEALS

We continue to host Hot Meals on the first, third and fifth Tuesdays. For information contact Beth Crawford, Pastor Mearle, or Pastor Scott.

OFFERINGS ARE STILL NEEDED

Offerings are still needed: Please continue to make offerings to the church if you are able to do so. In addition to pledge offerings, One Great Hour of Sharing offering can still be sent in.



Have you missed a Sunday or two lately and want to catch up on the sermons? Scott's sermons and the church stay at home worship services can be found on-line on our website, www.mvucc.org.

September PV Deadline
Wednesday,
August 19th

FOR SALE!

Have you ever wanted a "piece" of the church to have at home? A piece of history? Well we have an opportunity for that to happen. We are selling the old choir benches from the 1950's, that were also once the original pews in the Chapel in the Education wing of the church. We are replacing the choir benches with a few older Sanctuary pews re-made to fit the choir loft, so the pews now will all match.

We have 11 benches that vary in length and are priced "by the inch" so that everyone pays at the same rate. There are: two (A) 3' 2", two (B) 5' 0", five (C) 6' 4", and two (D) 6' 2" in length, measured for the opening needed. One of the 6' 2" benches matches the old choir benches and the other is the swing back pew that is in the lower hallway next to the office. These will be sold on a first come -- first sold basis, and we would take a deposit to hold a bench for 2 weeks (only!). Please contact Brad Kaylor, Dave Pressler or office personnel to arrange to see the benches and to make arrangements for your pick-up. Delivery arrangements may be available in special cases.

We will offer these benches to church members and employees for a donation, or suggested donation of \$1.20 per inch of length; with (A) = \$45.60, (B) = \$72.00, (C) = \$91.20 and (D) = \$88.80.

Thank you for your consideration
Building Committee



Templed Hills Partial Re-Opening!

Who: Families and adults

What: Hike, picnic, help with service projects to beautify the camp, self-contained family camping in our "summer cabins", individual adults are also invited for individual retreats (such as Pastor's or others), Provide own food, bring your own sports equipment to enjoy the sports fields/facilities with your families.

How: Follow this link to the Heartland Conference Webpage to find out more!!

<http://www.heartlanducc.org/all-project-list/templed-hills-partial-re-opening-in-july/>

The Parish Visitor August 2020

First Congregational UCC
200 N Main Street, Mt Vernon, OH 43050-2410
Phone: 740-393-1736
Fax: 740-326-9001

Pastor: Rev. Scott Elliott
Email: revscottelliott@mvucc.org

Resident Pastor of Community Outreach:
Rev. Dr. Mearle Griffith

Office Manager: Christine Risser
Asst. Office Manager: Carolyn Thompson
Email: secretary@mvucc.org

Custodian: Scott Mickley
Music Director: Laura Ackert
Pianist: Christa Brady
Nursery Care: Taylor Henson



Invite Family and Friends...

Welcome Every Visitor...

Churches grow in number because those who attend invite people they know and those in attendance make every visitor feel welcome. First Congregational is wonder, dynamic, love-centered church with a wide embrace of welcome for all! Please bring your friends and make sure to greet those you do not know.

Share the Love!

**First Congregational
United Church of Christ
200 North Main Street
Mount Vernon, OH 43050-2410**

