

Parish Visitor

Membership Edition
Volume LVI Issue 4



First Congregational
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

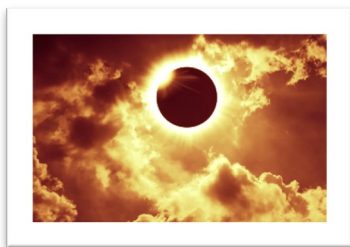
An Ecumenical Congregation in the Congregational Tradition
200 NORTH MAIN STREET • MOUNT VERNON, OHIO • 43050



INTERIM PASTOR Rev. Dr. Jay Marshall Groat

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www.mvucc.org



TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

April 8



TAX DAY

April 15



PASSOVER

April 22-30

CONTACT US



740-393-1736



office@mvucc.org



HOURS

Monday - Thursday

9:00 am to 12:00 noon,

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Friday

9:00 am to 12:00 noon



From Pastor Jay



The Holy Fern

I have been married to a skillful gardener for over forty years. I have been her chief assistant for this time period.

This means I have learned a few things about gardening along the way. One thing I have discovered is that I love ferns.

On our relatively small property we have well over a hundred ferns that pop up every spring. April showers may bring May flowers but they also bring back the ferns.

There is something about ferns for me. It is their beauty, their heartiness, there is something royal and dignified about their shape and green.

And their history inspires me. Ferns first appear in the fossil record about 360 million years ago. But most of the ferns we can see today did not appear until the Cretaceous geological period that lasted from about 145 to 66 million years ago. Any way you look at it ferns are beautiful and old. Fern species live in a wide variety of habitats, from remote mountain elevations, to dry desert rock faces, bodies of water and open fields – and prolifically in my back yard.

Being in the presence of ferns feels holy to me.

German theologian and philosopher Rudolf Otto's epic book, *The Idea Of the Holy*, was published in 1917. In it Otto writes that while the concept of the "holy" is often used to convey moral perfection, it contains another distinct element beyond the ethical sphere. He coined the term numinous based on the Latin word numen meaning "divine power".

Otto explained numinous as the experience or feeling which is not based on reason or sensory stimulation and represents the "wholly other." Otto wrote – The feeling of it may at times come sweeping like a gentle tide pervading the mind with a tranquil mood of deepest worship.

Wherever God is holiness prevails like a gentle tide pervading the mind. That means in you, in me, potentially in anyone else, in my fern-filled back yard, anywhere, everywhere.

The holy fern is calling again this Spring from my back yard – do you hear it?

Blessings,
Pastor Jay



Search Committee Update

In the last month the Church Profile has been validated by the Association and our job opening has been posted. The next step of the search process involves working with our contact at the Association office. As potential Pastors express interest in our church to her, she will send us their ministerial profiles. She will also review ministerial profiles that she has on hand and, if she finds a pastor that she thinks might be a good fit for us, she will contact that person to ask if they would be interested in having her send us their profile.

As of this writing we have not received any ministerial profiles, but we are not concerned. The seasons of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter are a busy time in a Pastor's life. We are not anticipating that we will receive anything until after Easter.

We will continue to keep you informed.

Ann L., Search Committee Chair

What's Happening in April

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE
Regular Worship Service	Sundays 9:30 am	Sanctuary
Social Time	Sundays 10:30 am	Social Hall
Sunday School	Sundays 11:00 am	Gather in Social Hall
Adult Forum		Chapel
Health, Healing and Fitness Ministry	Saturdays 11:00 am	Sanctuary
Health, Healing and Fitness, Karate	Thursdays 6:00 pm	Chapel
Theodore S. Farewell Service	Sunday May 5	Morning Service
Theodore's Compositional Recital	Saturday April 6 4:00 pm	Kenyon Campus, Rosse Hall
Theodore's Voice Recital	Saturday May 13 3:30 pm	Kenyon Campus Brandi Hall
Recognition Sunday And Milestone Recognition	Sunday May 12	Morning Service

TEMPLED HILLS



Summer Camp 2024

As you may have heard, the association has made the difficult decision to sell Templed Hills. If you missed the letter, it can be found here: <https://heartlanducc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Pastoral-Letter-FAQ-Templd-Hills-11.27.2023-Updated.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2h23SOXfjaP1nPG->

Summer camps will continue for this summer and for summers to come. Registration for Summer 2024 is open and can be accessed here: <https://heartlanducc.org/templd-hills/>.

FCUCC offers partial reimbursement for congregants and there are camper-ships available through the association.

Camps for interests in the arts to sports, intentional LGBTQ affirming, and adult-only to grandparent/grandchild camps.

On the lighter side...

**There are too many
judgmental people
In this world.**

**I can tell by just
looking at them!**

Repair Cafe'

IT'S FREE!!!

Do you need something repaired??

Bring any item you need repaired that would usually get thrown away and volunteers will give it their best shot toward getting it working again at **NO CHARGE!**



wooden items



electrical items



toys



computer repairs

Just about anything!!



bike repairs

Give your broken things a new life!
Too many things get thrown out when they can easily be repaired. Feel good about helping the Earth!!

2024 Dates

- February 17th
- May 18th
- August 17th
- November 16th

From 1 to 4:00 on a Saturday afternoon...

St. Paul's Church hall basement

100 E. High Street
Mt. Vernon



Repair Cafe' of Knox County just keeps on going, eh?

I'm very happy and proud of the good men and women who volunteered their time to keep material things out of the land-fill!

Hats off to you!

People who brought things to repair: 14

Number of items brought for repair: 21

Items brought in for repair:

- Lamp, wall lamp, drying rack, wooden chair, wooden chair, bicycle, clock radio, dehumidifier, wooden towel bar, TV, Oreck sweeper, microwave, space heater large, space heater Medium, space heater small, vaporizer, generator, metal detector, Shredder, computer tower



Are you handy with tools? Mechanically inclined? If you'd like to put those skills to work in the community, on May 18, give Mark a call at 740-291-9125.

Graduation Awards

Applications for awards offered to the congregation's graduating high school seniors are available in the rack outside of the church office. Completed applications are due back to Christian Education mailbox by the end of office hours on Monday, April 22. Any awards granted will be presented during service on May 12 as part of Recognition Sunday.



Recognition of Milestones

If you have a child who will enter kindergarten, sixth grade, or ninth grade in the fall or is graduating high school this spring, please send that information to Jennifer by Sunday, April 7. These milestones will be acknowledged on Recognition Sunday, May 12.