

Parish Visitor

Web Edition

Volume LVI Issue 5



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

OFFICE: 740-393-1736

www.mvucc.org



May 2
National Day of
Prayer



May 12
Mothers' Day



May 19
Pentecost

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



God, Jesus and the Spirit

On Pentecost Sunday this month we will celebrate what traditionally is known as the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Those of us who travel in the world of spiritual pilgrimage tend to navigate such waters as God-centric, Christ-centric or Spirit-centric. Often we make these choices subconsciously.

A God-centric pilgrim thinks about God, prays to God, wonders about God, lives for God. These of course can be right and good things to do. They can also be problematic depending upon one's concept of God.

A Christ-centric pilgrim thinks about Jesus Christ, prays to Jesus Christ, wonders about Jesus Christ, lives for Jesus Christ. These ask the question What would Jesus do? Trust Jesus, follow Jesus, give it all to Christ, John 3:16. These of course can also be right and good things to do.

Thirdly the Spirit-centric pilgrim thinks about the Holy Spirit, prays to the Holy Spirit, wonders about the Holy Spirit, lives for the Holy Spirit. Genesis 2 records God creating humanity from the muddy ground and then giving humanity life by breathing ruah – spirit into it. John 3:8 says that the pneuma – spirit blows where it wills and we hear the sound of it – but we do not know where it comes from and where it goes – so it is for the people of the pneuma – spirit.

Like Luther I will now make my stand – I am primarily Spirit-centric, the life and message of the Christ informs my understanding of the Spirit, and God is Wholly Other. Most of my praying is done with my eyes open. I ask the Spirit to reveal itself to me and if nobody is around I talk to it out loud.

On my good days this is a right and good thing for me to do. Those days I feel like a train on a track. I have never heard with my ears the Spirit talking back to me and if I ever do I don't think I would be able to handle it.

What about you? God, Jesus or the Spirit?

Blessings,
Pastor Jay



SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

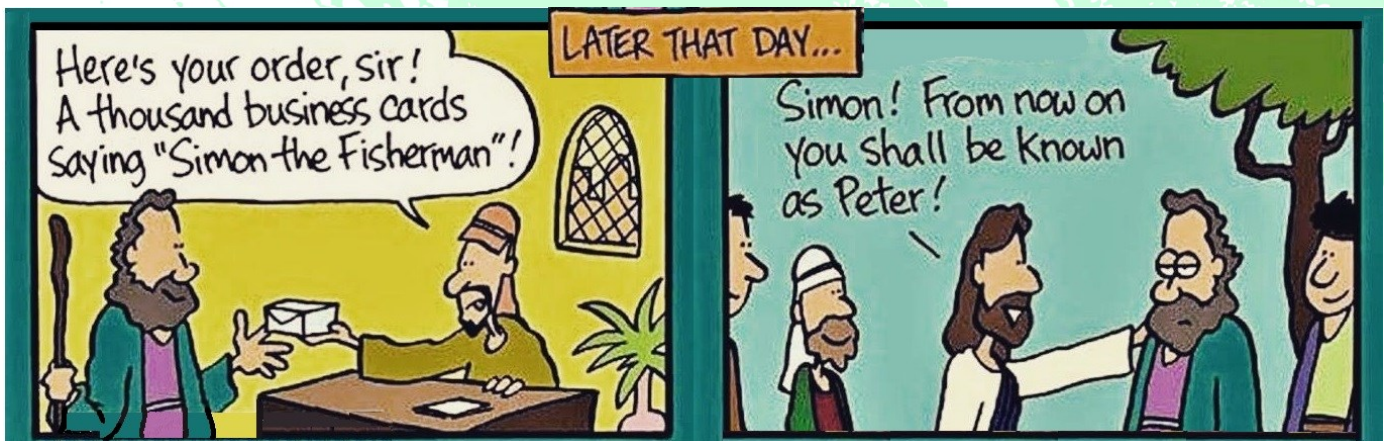
After weeks and weeks of working on the Church Profile, we have finally gotten to the actual process of searching for a new pastor. It feels both exciting and daunting! This is a confidential process, so we cannot share details.

We can tell you that we are using the surveys you filled out last summer as a guide to what the congregation wants our next pastor to be like, and that we are working toward finding someone who is a good fit.

Thank you for your trust in us. Please keep us in your prayers.

Ann L., Pastoral Search Committee Chair

on the lighter side...



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MAY

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE
Regular Worship Service	Sundays 9:30 am	Sanctuary
Social Time	Sundays 10:30 am	Social Hall
Sunday School Adult Forum	May 5th is the last date for Sunday School and Adult Forum until the Fall season	
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
Recognition Sunday and Milestone Recognition	Sunday May 12	Morning Service

Christian Education in the Fall

We are in search of Sunday School teachers for the 2024-25 school year. If you are interested in teaching, please reach out to Jennifer L. by Sunday, June 30. Decisions on class offerings will be made based on volunteers.

The Church Office will be closed on Monday May 27
in observance of **Memorial Day**

YOUR CHURCH SUPPORTS THIS PROGRAM



The Knox Learning Center School Garden is Growing!

The Learning Center now has three raised garden beds on their playground! We have planted strawberries, peas, radishes, lettuce, carrots, spinach, kale, basil and sunflowers. Thanks to a *Youth Garden Award*, the school garden program added two indoor grow towers in February to start plants for the outdoor beds.



We are working with both K-3 and 4-5 grade classrooms this year in addition to a group of young adults with developmental disabilities in the *Transition-U* program at the Learning Center. This program has offered many cross-curricular learning opportunities for students, including learning about nutrition and trying new foods. We have germinated seeds in the classroom and thanks to a gift from the Mission and Service team at FCUCC, and introduced red wiggler worms to a composting worm bin on Earth Day. Students will be charting their food and water intake and feeding the worms lunch scraps. One student made the comment this week; "*You know, I love worms!*"



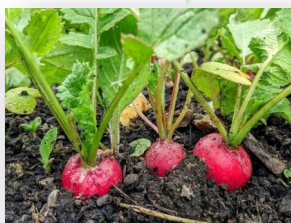
The gift from our First Congregational friends will also allow us to create garden banners for our new outdoor garden area. The garden signs will incorporate some of the students artwork.



Thank you for helping us grow (!)

Submitted by Erin S.,
Arch Park Community Garden and Learning
Center School Garden Coordinator

Office Note: Wouldn't it be interesting to see how Erin would get her title on a business card?



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

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.

CONGREGATIONAL BREAKFAST!

June 30th—Immediately after the worship service, head on down to the Social Hall for a great time of food and fellowship!

