



**September 1st is Labor Day**

**September 21st is the First Day of Autumn**

**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



***Joy Comes With The Morning. Weeping may linger  
for the night, but joy comes with the morning. - Psalm 30:5b***

I am haunted by something a UCC pastor friend said in a sermon many years ago. His topic was grief, and he said – “There are two kinds of people in the world – those in grief, and those who will be in grief.”

I did not really want to hear that back then and I don’t really want to hear it today. But I can’t shake it and I admit there is wisdom there.

Hardly a day goes by when I also remember this nugget – *everything changes, everything ends, and something new begins.*

To be human means from time to time we will experience pain, loss, death and grief of all kinds.

Then there is the basic tenet of Buddhism which begins with the acknowledgement of the suffering of life. Here is a broad view of the Four Noble Truths of Buddhism – Suffering exists, it has a cause, it has an end, and it has a cause to bring about its end.

One does not need to be Buddhist to wonder about suffering. And those of us who are Christian are familiar with the episodes in the gospels where Jesus tells those who are experiencing challenge to “have faith, have courage, take heart.”

When I need an encouraging word I have some favorite Psalms I visit. Psalm 46 – God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear.....Psalm 121 – I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

And Psalm 30 – tagged as Thanksgiving for Recovery from Grave Illness – Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes in the morning.

This recalls another African proverb – *No matter how dark the night, the morning will come.* I like this one a lot. I’m sorry but joy does not always come in the morning – sometimes it does.

But the morning will come – every time. And on our good mornings, our blessed ones – the morning brings hope.

Blessings - Pastor Jay

# Search

## Committee News

In our last committee update I talked about waiting. As a committee, we are still waiting for a pastor that we can wholeheartedly recommend to the congregation. At our last meeting we reaffirmed our commitment to be patient and prayerful and trust that God has someone in mind who will be a good fit for our church. Our contact at the Association office tells us that summer is always a slow period, and that profiles typically begin to come in faster in the fall. (Although she also added that this has been such an unusual year, she's not sure what to expect.)

The other members of the committee are Marilyn Chidester, Tom Dole, Brad Kaylor, Karen Keough, Darlene Kurth, Kathy Stover, and Elaine Stull. Together they bring a variety of perspectives to this process. I feel confident that they represent the congregation well. Thank them for their work and keep us all in your prayers.

Ann L., Search Committee Chair

### Quotes for Christian Life

"But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently."

- Romans 8:25



# Vote for Climate Hope

This is a program the United Church of Christ is launching to encourage and help members to make a sacred commitment to vote as an act of hope for present and future generations. In the next few weeks, pledge cards will be available in the Sanctuary. By filling out the card, you are letting UCC know of your commitment to vote this November.



## Adult Forum

Adult Forum will meet Sunday mornings this fall in the Chapel 11am – 11:45.

We will be discussing ***Dancing In The Darkness – Spiritual Lessons for Thriving in Turbulent Times*** by Otis Moss III. Dr. Moss is Senior Pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, Illinois. The book is an inspiring guide to spiritual resilience as we face the political and personal challenges of these turbulent times. Dr. Moss is one of our country's most renowned religious and civil rights leaders.

Please let Bill in the office know if you would like to purchase a copy. Cost is individual donation.

Rotating as our leaders/facilitators will be Pastor Jay, John Chidester and John Ryerson.

**You are encouraged to attend the class even if you choose to not read the book.** Anyone can come and listen and participate. We will begin Sunday September 8. See you in class!

# What's Happening in September

## WHAT

## WHEN

## WHERE

Regular Worship  
Service

Sundays  
9:30 am

Sanctuary

Social Time

Sundays  
10:30 am

Social Hall

Adult Forum

Sundays  
11:00 am

Chapel

Chancel Choir  
Rehearsal

Thursday  
7:00 pm to 8:15 pm

Choir Room

Health, Healing and  
Fitness Ministry

Will resume at a later  
date

Health, Healing and  
Fitness, Karate

Will resume at a later  
date

## Quotes for Christian Life

"Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."

- Philippians 2:4

# Mission and Service Committee

## Invitation

We propose to offer you information on mission and service projects that you might find compelling. As our church is in an interim mode between settled pastors, and we have a membership small in numbers, it is not feasible for us to manage too many projects needing volunteers. I have started this series with senior services because the average age of our members is older than 30. Please find below, two options that might interest you to participate as an individual, with our blessing.

### **Friend to Friend America**

According to a study by the World Health Organization, the fifth leading cause of health problems in modern seniors is loneliness and isolation. Did you know that six out of ten residents in nursing homes never have a visitor? Friend to Friend America supports friendly visitors to relieve loneliness one friend at a time. Many elders have outlived their families, their friends, and their fortunes. Volunteers through Friend to Friend America are trained, and then asked to visit a designated resident twice monthly for at least one year. In the Pacific Northwest, where this program originated 50 years ago, volunteers are matched with friends close to home. Nursing home managers and social workers can identify individuals who are likely to enjoy a visitor. Check out the Web site and consider this wonderful service.

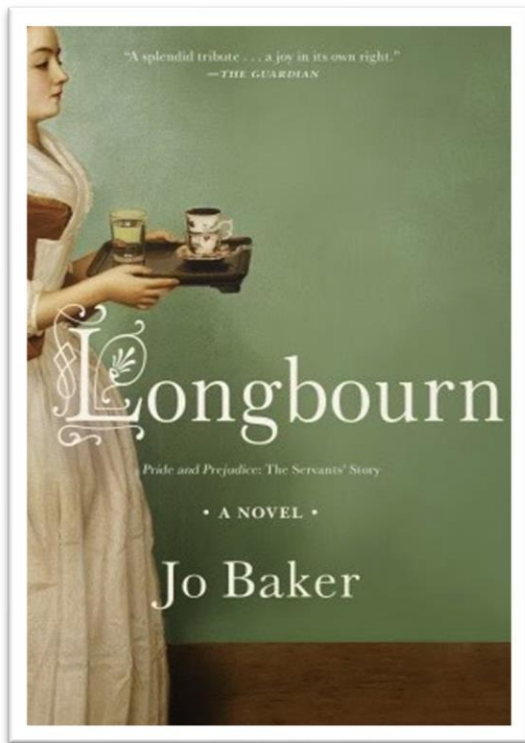
### **Knox County Options**

In contrast to most volunteer opportunities, which focus on a particular service or issue, the Senior Health & Wellness program manager at Knox Public Health listens first to you. What particular skill or service would you like to share? Coordinator Natasha Lester is looking for trustworthy, reliable individuals who have a clear idea what they would like to do. She works with Walt Lewis, the Resource Navigator at United Way, who maintains a comprehensive list of local volunteer opportunities.

**Walt Lewis  
United Way  
305 East High Street  
Mount Vernon OH 43050  
(740) 397-5721**

- Kris S.

# Book Review



***Longbourn.*** By Jo Baker

Alfred A. Knopf: London, New York. 2013. Fiction.

Reading a sequel to a beloved novel requires a pause at the beginning. Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* must be one of the most beloved English novels. The Bennet family lives at Longbourn, in the country southwest of London and north of Plymouth, during the era when the British Royal Navy was engaged against the continental forces of Napoleon. Austen's story focuses on the social lives of the Bennet daughters, especially the second oldest, Elizabeth. *Longbourn* tells the story of the staff, who make the social lives of the Bennet family possible: the maids, the housekeeper, the butler, and the groomsmen who tend the horses and stable. Baker has done wonderful research and uses the senses to describe the early morning chores and how they were accomplished, giving us insight into the

relationships between the family and their staff, and the prospects for members of that staff. It reads like a new portrait of a forgotten relative. The English social system worked best for those at the privileged top, no surprise, yet Austen's novel of manners that revealed kind consideration for the work of the staff is extended. This compelling story reveals an idea of how it felt for that staff to be recognized for their work, however it was required. And there was lots of work: fireplaces to clean, oil lamps to fill, laundry to wash by hand, chickens to catch, kill and pluck, horses to feed and groom. And sewing, all by hand, gardening of necessity, managing a fruit orchard and its bounty, dishwashing by hand, tending the pig.

It is important to notice and thank people for services. Baker's novel is a reminder that this is not optional for good people: it is necessary. It confirms that we notice the good services done for us, and encourages the providers to do well. Many are promoted to greater and often very different responsibilities, and keeps alive the hope for happy endings. It gives blood to the admonition, "take heart." Jane Austen would approve.

- Kris S.

# Big Event!



## OHIO UNDERGROUND RAILROAD WHISTLE-STOP POETRY TOUR



### **MOUNT VERNON TO HOST WHISTLE-STOP POETRY TOUR OF UNDERGROUND RAILROAD**

Mount Vernon is scheduled to be on the itinerary of the *Ohio Poetry Association Whistle-Stop* tour of Underground Railroad stations throughout Ohio.

The Mount Vernon event is scheduled for Saturday, October 5 at First Congregational United Church of Christ and is one of 12 locations on the Whistle-Stop tour. It will begin at 1:30 p.m. The church is located at 200 N. Main Street, Mount Vernon.

The event is co-sponsored with *Poets Against Racism and Hate USA* and will present a series of poetry readings at historical sites featuring poets and poems that honor Ohio's legacy on the Underground Railroad. It will also raise awareness of issues of social justice, hate, and prejudice. Members of the Mount Vernon community will speak on local history related to the Underground Railroad and the church's involvement with it.

Becky Chamberlin, First Congregational's Moderator, expressed the church's gratitude for the opportunity to host the whistle-stop tour for Central Ohio. "We cherish our long history with social justice issues and our experience with the Underground Railroad."



# Special Adult Forum

**Sunday September 15, Adult Forum**

## **Conversation about One Holy Land: 2 Unique Perspectives**

Morgie, an Israeli Jewish tour educator living in Jerusalem and Husam, a Muslim Palestinian tour educator living outside of Bethlehem in Palestine recently shared their personal stories about living amidst the ongoing conflict and violence in the Middle East.

The two have forged a relationship that has grown into a friendship founded on honesty and respect. Their stories and perspectives brought up many questions which prompted a follow-up conversation among those who attended.

Erin attended a zoom presentation with Morgie and Husam on August 17<sup>th</sup> and joined in a follow-up conversation on August 25<sup>th</sup> at the Dublin Community United Church of Christ. Erin noted, "We were encouraged by both speakers to find ways to go outside of our circles to learn about the world views of the diverse people living in the Middle East." The Adult Forum on October 15 will give us an opportunity to hear their stories and ask questions about the possibilities for moving forward.

### Quotes for Christian Life

"If possible, so far as it depends on you,  
live peaceably with all."

- Romans 12:18



# Stewardship Moment

Throughout our faith journey, we are extended several invitations. From the invitation to make our confession of faith to the invitation to care for a sick neighbor, to the invitation to bring food to the next church event, to the invitation to Christ's Table, our life in a community of faith is full of invitations.

During this next season, our church community is going to be intentional about how we respond to the variety of invitations we receive and how those invitations spur us along in our faith development. In particular, we will focus about what it means to gather at the sacred table, and how being welcome there calls us to become agents of grace.

Jesus invites us to bring all that we are and all that we have when we become a follower, a disciple of Christ. It is a sojourn that is meant both to form us more into the image of Christ through the disciplines of study, worship, prayer, service, and generosity; as well as to strengthen us in becoming powerful agents for the good that God is doing in our world.

Our faithful financial stewardship is one way we are invited to respond to Christ's invitation. Our generosity funds the mission and ministry that we are deploying as a sign that God's Realm is among us. Shortly we will begin an intentional reflection titled *From Bread and Cup to Faith and Giving* (**year-round emphasis** – *We have been considering our theme, through much of the year*) as a preparation for determining our investment in the ministry and mission of our church.

God has done and continues to do remarkable things through us and with us – things that matter in our community! Your prayers and your participation are keys to helping us advance further on the pathway of discipleship. We know that when the early church gathered to break bread and share with one another, they did so with glad and generous

hearts and that there was no need among them (Acts 2). We desire such a spirit of true community to be among us, motivated by the grace we receive at the Table.

