

Parish Visitor

Web Edition
Volume LVII Issue #5



First Congregational
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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



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Contact Us



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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

Peace Village Give-Away

The *Christian Education Committee* is sponsoring an EVERYTHING IS FREE event on Sunday, **May 4th** in the Social Hall as part of our Youth Recognition Reception following the worship service. Games, art supplies, sit-upons, flags, first aid supplies and more are free to anyone who can use them.



Peace Village was a very successful program that our church held for 5 years (2015–2019) at Ariel Foundation Park to teach Peace to elementary-age children in our community. Following COVID, the loss of a settled pastor and health restrictions for many of our former staff, the program has been unable to continue for the last five

years. We would love for you to help us liquidate our supplies by taking them if you can use them or perhaps recycling them by giving them to someone you know would be who be able to use them.

THANK YOU!



From Christian Ed.

Recognition Sunday, May 4

Make plans to join us for the May 4 service where we will honor the children and youth in the congregation.

Sunday School Teacher Search

We continue to search for teachers to lead children's Sunday School. Several congregants have approached the committee with various potential set ups. Christian Education is open to implementing any structure that works. Our main priorities are consistency, safety, and commitment.

One scenario has a children's class taking place during service between the Children's Time and the end of service. This would require two background checked volunteers per Sunday. Ideally, we would have 2-4 volunteers who would make the commitment to being available most Sundays to lead as substitutes are very limited. The nursery would still be staffed during service for children too young for a class. This setup leaves the potential need for child care during Adult Forum for children in elementary school and younger. If you are interested in leading a class with this setup or volunteering to help with child care during Adult Forum, please reach out to the Christian Education Committee.

The other scenario is to have Children's Sunday School at the same time as Adult Forum. This again requires two background checked volunteers per Sunday. This can be a team effort, but consistency is very important and substitutes are quite limited, so a committed core of 2-4 people is ideal. Once again, reach out to a member of the Christian Education Committee if interested.

Christian Education will meet again in May to determine if we have the volunteers to offer either set-up of classes in the fall.

Background checks are done at your convenience. Forms are available on the rack outside of the office with the instructions on how to complete. You set up an appointment at the sheriff's office at a time that works for you and the church will receive the bill and results. If you work in a profession that requires a background check, you can provide a copy of that check or a copy of the license that requires a background check to the office to keep on file. We are currently in need of more people on the list who can serve as substitutes for nursery workers.

Graduation Awards

Awards will be given during service on May 4.

Church Camps

Heartland Conference will host camps on campgrounds throughout Ohio and beyond. Camps for Grandparents and Grandchildren, Adult and Women's Retreats, and others are available. More information can be found at heartlanducc.org/storycontinues.

There are camperships offered through the conference and partial registration reimbursement is available to those within our congregation.

A Sister Has Passed



Mary Ellen B. passed away on Saturday April 26. She was a member here since 1961.

Mary Ellen, 97, passed peacefully away April 26, 2025, at the family farm. She was born in Mount Vernon, Ohio on October 19, 1927, to the late Cecil and Mary (Hyatt) Jackson.

Upon graduation from Mount Vernon High School in 1945, Mary Ellen was offered a paid college education by a teacher there; circumstances prevented her from attending more than one year. However, after raising six children she went back to The Ohio State University and obtained a master's degree in social work, later a Master of Pastoral Counseling

from Ashland University, then a Master of Divinity from Earlham College. She worked at several agencies in Huron and Sandusky counties as a clinical social worker and counselor and later in Knox in similar positions, finally retiring at nearly eighty years of age.

Growing up in Bangs in during part of the Great Depression and before World War Two, Mary Ellen learned the toughness and resourcefulness that formed that greatest generation, aided by a genetic inheritance from common ancestors of prominent historical women such as Anne Boleyn, Katherine Howard, and frontier heroine Hannah Duston; other ancestors were some of the sturdy pioneers who migrated to Knox County from the Frederick-Hyattstown Maryland area and gave Fredericktown its name. In 1946, she married Kenneth B., a handsome farm boy and Battle Of The Bulge veteran from just up Columbus Road.

Visitation will be held on Friday, May 2, 2025, from 12:00 – 2:00PM at Snyder Funeral Home – Lasater Chapel, 11337 Upper Gilchrist Rd. in Mount Vernon. Where a memorial service will follow at 2:00 PM. Inurnment will be in Mount Vernon Memorial Gardens.

Building Committee

Spring Projects

We currently have 3 projects engaged for the betterment of our church:

- 1.) Repair the south tower & stair area water damage, caused by the January rains.
- 2.) Repair, clean and seal the retaining wall with our neighbor to the north.
- 3.) Repair the damaged stucco on the outer shell of the church, replace the rain gutters and downspouts, and add a fresh coat of paint.

Mother Nature has not been our friend, starting with January's rain, and the cold, wind and rain in March & April.

Progress

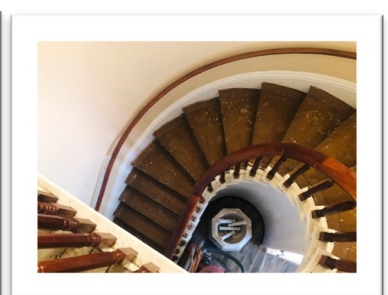
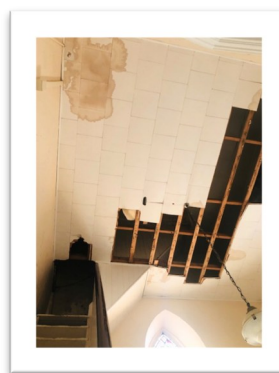
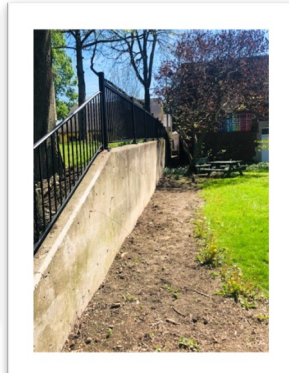
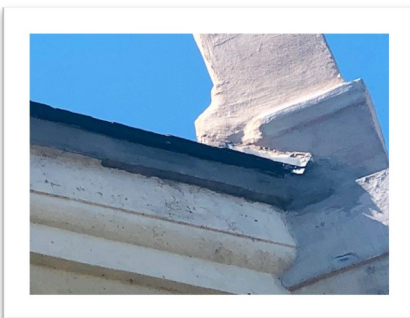
- 1.) The initial cleanup has been done, and the process has been started with the insurance company, but we may need to have the adjuster come back to personally go over things with Chad (our contractor) before moving forward.
- 2.) Up front, the overgrown ground cover next to the wall has been removed and, in the back, the area between our building and the wall, has been cleaned up. Replanting and adding gravel to the back will be done when time permits.
- 3.) The stucco project was scheduled to start April 1, the start was delayed a week due to weather. The first thing was to remove our worn-out and battered rain gutter from the roof. During removal we discovered that when the existing rain gutter was installed, stucco was not applied behind the gutters to the top 4 rows of hand-made original soft brick. The exposed brick is soft and crumbly, unable to be used to support the slate roof. Chad has reached out to numerous contractors in the Columbus area in search of reasonable solutions for us and is close resolve the issue.

The mason contractor was brought in about the brick and will replace the bad ones with new brick and add so a flashing can be attached to prevent moisture from getting in and then stucco.

The good news is that the gutter guy has added new gutter and downspout to the flat roof of the Education Wing (in the back alley) and installed gutter guard to keep debris from plugging the downspouts. And Chad had a slate-roof guy check our roof and he reported that it is in great shape, saying that "it should last you another 85 years or so". Note: he has worked on our roof in the past! This shows that we are doing the right things to preserve our fine church building!

Many thanks go to the building committee members and church leaders for their continued support and understanding.

Brad Kaylor - Building Committee Chair



Mount Vernon Zen Community

The *Mount Vernon Zen Community* has been meeting in our Chapel on Tuesday evenings for many years. Several of our members have been a part of the group. Now, the *Mount Vernon Zen Community* has a new permanent home (199 Scott Lane, Gambier) and a new name. They are now the ***Kokosing Zen Center***. The group's leader, Shojo Joy B. has these kind words for our church.

I am writing to let the Church know that the Mount Vernon Zen Sangha has a new name and a new more permanent location of our own. You can see our information here at our new website: <https://www.kokosingzencenter.org/>

We therefore no longer will be using the side chapel for our Tuesday night services.

We want to extend a very heartfelt thank you to the Mount Vernon UCC for nearly 10 years of generously hosting us in the side chapel on Tuesday nights and for our other weekend events throughout the year. We very much appreciate the kindness and generosity of the Church's people and the beauty of the space, and your willingness to welcome us into it.

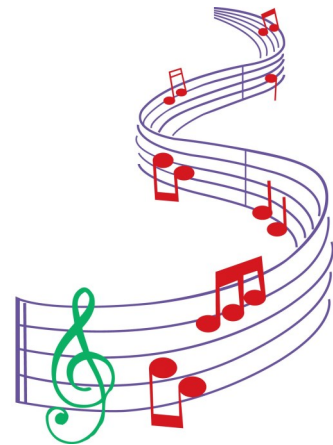
Thank you very much.
Joy B.



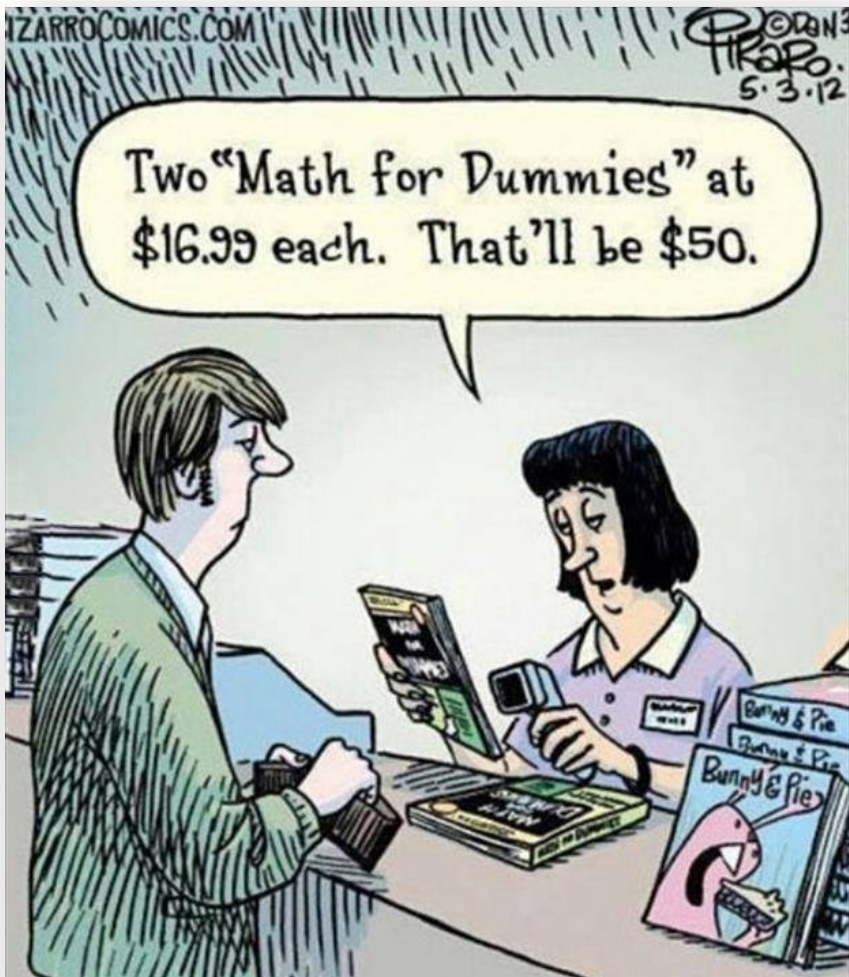
We wish them many blessings in their new endeavor.

Director of Music

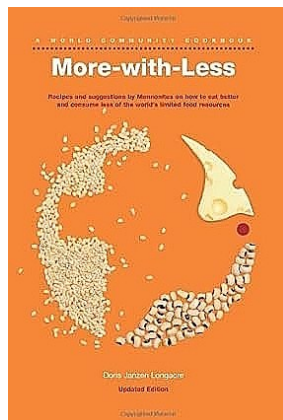
Summer is on the horizon, and our chancel choir will soon take a well-deserved break. This is where we need you! If you sing or play an instrument, and would like to share your talent with the congregation one or more Sundays, please contact our Director of Music, Christa B. at the church email, office@mvucc.org, or the church phone, 740-393-1736.



on
the
lighter
side...



Book Review



More-with-Less Cookbook: 25th Anniversary Edition. Doris Janzen Longacre. A World Community Cookbook commissioned by Mennonite Central Committee, Akron, PS, in response to world food needs. Herald Press: Scottsdale, PA; Waterloo, Ontario. 2000.

Opening with Creole proverbs, this treasured cookbook revisits one of the truths of human experience: “A full stomach says: A ripe guava has worms. An empty stomach says: Let me see.” Featuring recipes gathered and tested by Doris Janzen Longacre, a trained home economist and dietitian, in response to a worldwide call to members by the Mennonite Central Committee.

Mennonites were challenged to prepare family meals with a ten percent reduction in spending, and to send their recipes and findings to the MCC.

More-with-Less advocates a little less meat, and a little more grain, in our diets. It offers variations on many familiar dishes, and delicious authentic versions of international dishes such as Vietnamese fried rice and Greek egg-lemon soup. Recipes are clearly written, call for ingredients easily found, and produce memorably delicious and satisfying results. Longacre and associates also include info about menu planning, nutrition, preserving, and gardening.

Recipes help cooks avoid processed and convenience foods, which are often budget busters. This cookbook stands out in my collection of budget and healthy recipes because their seasonings and spices are quite delicious. In this time of inflation and concern over food purities, *More-with-Less* offers reliable, doable, accessible recipes. A great gift for brides, new cooks, old cooks, and any other cooks. From my spattered copy

Vietnamese Fried Rice (Serves 4)

Cook 1 cup rice, or have ready 3 c. leftover rice. Heat in large skillet:

4 T. cooking oil

Add:

¼ - ½ lb. any cooked or raw meat, cut into thin strips

3 cloves garlic, minced

1 large onion, chopped coarsely

1 t. salt

1 t. pepper

1 t. sugar

1 T. soy sauce

Stir fry until meat is tender and hot, about 1-2 minutes.

Add:

3 c. cooked rice

Stir fry 5 minutes. Add:

1 c. leftover or frozen vegetables, such as peas, green beans, or carrots

Stir well into rice-meat mixture. Just before serving, add:

2 eggs, beaten

Over medium heat, stir carefully through rice until eggs are cooked. Serve piping hot with salad of leaf lettuce, cucumbers, fresh mint and parsley.

Here's What's Happening

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE
Regular Worship Service	Sundays 9:30 am	Sanctuary
Social Time	Sundays 10:30 am	Social Hall
Adult Forum	Sunday May 11 11:00 am (last of the season)	Chapel
Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Thursdays 7:00 pm to 8:15 pm	Choir Room
Council Meeting	Sunday May 25, 11:00 am	Front Parlor

Mount Vernon Spring Cleanup Day

Mount Vernon is once again having a Spring Clean-up Day. This year's event takes place **Saturday, May 3**, from 8 a.m. to noon, at a Ariel Foundation Park, in front of the Schnormeier Events Center. And whereas prior clean-ups were open only to City residents, this year's event, will be open to all Knox County residents (proof of residency may be required).

Anyone living in the county with large, unwanted items, old furniture or just general junk taking up space will be able to dispose of it responsibly this weekend, while keeping our communities clean and clutter-free. Participants must unload their own materials, but volunteers will be on site to lend a hand. There will be no limit on loads, with a cost of \$20 per load. Payment will be accepted in cash, check or credit card. Please make checks payable to "City of Mount Vernon" and note "Spring Clean-Up" in the memo. No trailer or dumping will be permitted, and all materials must be disposed of by hand.

Large furniture items like mattresses can be stacked behind Dumpsters. Participants must supply their own protective equipment, such as gloves and eye protection.

The following materials will not be permitted at the Spring Clean-Up Day – hazardous or toxic wastes, materials containing asbestos, lead acid batteries, oil or auto parts, infectious or bio-hazardous waste, steel drums or steel structures, ashes, dead animals, liquids, tires, yard waste, construction materials, or appliances containing CFC (Freon), such as refrigerators, air conditioners, freezers and humidifiers.