



## Parish News

April 2020

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### First United Church of Christ

#### Change in Our Lives

With the recent events dealing with world health issues we are forced to accept changes in our lives. This is not an easy thing to do in our modern mobile life style. We are used to going any place we wish and doing whatever we want to. Travel restrictions have forced us to make changes in our life style. Matters concerning personal hygiene, eating habits, shopping habits, are all things we should have been considering for our own sake as well as our friends and extended families. This recent health crises could be viewed as a wake-up call.

This is not the first time world events have caused us great concern for changes that were forced on us unexpectedly. Remember the emotions of the evil acts caused us to accept changes for our own safety after the 911 tragedy. We faced no fly lists, limited destinations, strict regulations on what we could take with us. America survived these mandatory changes, some were moderated with time, but others are still with us and most likely will remain. We changed the way we do a lot of things and may never go back to some of our former habits.

Some of our church family remember World War II well and recall the changes we were forced to endure. Women were needed to join the work force as the male population was needed in our military. Waste was held to a minimum; remember paper drives and scrap metal collections to support our war effort. Many of these changes became permanent, we now have many women in the workforce and careers. Many communities developed expanded recycling programs, all for the better.

The current health crisis was not brought upon us by any evil or struggle for power, but rather through unknown reasons and exacerbated action or non-actions we do in our normal lives. All of the changes to our normal routine are for our own good. Information is a good thing, however, sometimes there is so much information that resulting confusion can lead to erroneous conclusions. Some of these recent changes should remain with us and some will just go away with time. As Christians, we can all pray for guidance and understanding from our Heavenly Father. "This too shall pass" and we will be better people for it.

God Speed,

Bill Paxson

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## A Note from Your Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I believe the true measure of a society, any society, lies not in what its government does during a crisis, but rather what its membership does during a time of crisis. Governments will make decisions based on numbers and statistics, while individuals will make decisions based on their core values and beliefs. As Christian Americans we have a dual citizenship. One that commands us to be loyal to our country and the other asks for loyalty to the principles of Christ.

Sometimes this duality may be a source of conflict, but only if we let it be. The mandates of our government may preclude us from gathering together or limit our ability to visit one another, but it cannot and should not prevent us from practicing our faith and expressing our belief that our love for God and one another will overcome all adversity.

You see, we belong to a most powerful and awesome God. And as such, we belong to one another. We share in the Passion of Jesus and are reborn in His resurrection. We must act accordingly. We must always love, even in times like these that have great uncertainty. We must remain a caring people, and we must express this caring. Although we might not be gathering in our sanctuary for some time, we can still pray for one another, telephone, email, text, write, or maybe even Facetime one another to communicate our caring and support for one another. This is what a Christian society does.

I am sure in the days ahead things will get worse before they get better. I ask that you, as a member of the Christian society, trust in our Lord to take care of you. In Philippians 4:6 we are reminded ***“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”*** Our God remains in control. There might be difficulty ahead, but with Him and His grace we shall overcome this adversity.

Be mindful of how our country reacted to the tragedy of September 11, 2001. Our country came under attack. We, as a society, rallied and took care of one another, checking on one another to ensure all were well, praying for the missing, the injured and the dead. We prayed for our citizens and our country. We responded to the needs of our people with love. There was no federal mandate to do so, we did it out of our core beliefs and unity of purpose.

Let the time we face now be used in much the same way. Let us use this time to reconcile with God and one another. Let us be forever mindful that we face nothing alone. Let us show our core value of love for all by taking time for one another by sending a message of love and support one another. Let us work to find the needs of those around us and assist them in those needs.

This dreaded disease is causing a lot of panic and discomfort. It has closed most everything. Do not let it close your heart. Keep calm, pray and trust in the Lord. If you truly love the Lord He will guide you through this and will make you stronger in the end. God’s peace to all,

*Pastor Gerry*

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## Update

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with a heavy heart that I inform you that First United Church of Christ will be suspending in-church Sunday services. Our planned date of return is May 10, 2020; however, we will be evaluating the current health situation and decide if we can resume services earlier or later than that.

The church staff will continue to work, and an electronic version of a virtual church service is being developed for distribution. Newsletters will continue to go out and the telephone will be monitored and answered as will emails.

If you wish to have prayers for you or someone you know of please contact the office or me (330-306-8965) or email them to ([gerald.gammon@gmail.com](mailto:gerald.gammon@gmail.com)). The pie sale will go on as planned since the orders will be filled via pick up.

Some good news is that our new directories have arrived! They will be ready for distribution upon our return to the church. Also let us be grateful that at the time of this writing, there are no known cases of the virus within our church family

I know these uncertain times are cause for anxiety and stress, but we will get through this together. I ask that you take care of yourselves and one another. We can pray for one another and continue to express our love shared in Christ through telephone conversations, texts, letters, and cards. Let us deepen our resolve to trust in our Lord that He will take care of us and that this sacrifice will bring about an outcome which includes good health and prosperity in the future.

You all remain in my prayers,

Pastor Gerry

## Thanks

Thank you to my church family for the beautiful altar flowers delivered by Karen & Junior Fumerola. They brightened up the house and made my day.

*Betty Howren*





# April Happenings

Q V  
 M E  
 C D  
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 G C O  
 A O  
 N D  
 D F M S S U A X Z K N K P K G S B Q E E S K  
 Y R I N Q T S E X F C U V P Y J W S A Q I E  
 Z A I A W I T F E L L O W S H I P E W C H U  
 F Z W E D Q K E D I K K J L L I S R E W O L F C  
 L F Q X H A A R I S L P W M T S M C Q P X W S P  
 J U Z N E R R Y W O R S H I P U P S R S H N J D J F  
 A D M I N I S T R A T I V E A S S I S T A N T D A Y  
 L J W Z B N O Q Q I U K B L O F O O L S D A Y P V S  
 M E E T I N G S W D R O O F S V J B L O O M S S E C I F I R C A S N W W  
 J P C E Y W B Q H Q O E I E Y B M I N T X H M A U N D Y T H U R S D A Y  
 A A R S P G C V T H D M U V O F F B R E A D J S E W  
 V D D E T E J U O C G U O Y Y I C O A F Z P C T W N  
 D R N V A F A A M S E G T T L Q N X R A W B P E O R  
 N M U G K J R P S S R Q S Y N S U L G M W V K R  
 J O E S N F B T I T A R P E T S O M N I K U S K  
 U U I G M O A B H E F P U C L P T G M J V N A L  
 X S T G L L S K D S I I S H B M S O O U E B  
 O U R A S A X T F A A G E E K I E A V C E N  
 U V J F E V O P J H O Y L R B R H B R E Z C P E  
 B C L H W L M W N H Y H E S T A E R T F N S  
 X Z M B O A X U C N O W I N E E I Z Z S  
 F C T H S Y K S G Y H M Q F K H  
 V S E Z S S U G N O  
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 R I  
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### Word List

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|------------------------------|-----------------|
| ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT DAY | GIFTS           |
| BASKETS                      | GOOD FRIDAY     |
| BIBLE STUDY                  | LILIES          |
| BLOOMS                       | MAUNDY THURSDAY |
| BREAD                        | MEETINGS        |
| BREAKFAST                    | MUSIC           |
| CANDY                        | PALM SUNDAY     |
| COMMUNION                    | PASSOVER        |
| CROSS                        | PIE SALE        |
| EARTH DAY                    | RESURRECTION    |
| EASTER                       | SACRIFICE       |
| EGGS                         | SALVATION       |
| EMPTY TOMB                   | SHOWERS         |
| FEASTS                       | TAXES           |
| FELLOWSHIP                   | THREE DAYS      |
| FLOWERS                      | TREATS          |
| FOOLS DAY                    | WINE            |
| FORGIVENESS                  | WORSHIP         |

### First Ladies

Ten ladies met on Friday, February 21st, at the church @12:00 p.m. around a beautiful red, white, and blue patriotic themed table, and a yummy red, white, and blue dessert! Bev DeSavigny led us in a short introduction to a Bible study we plan to incorporate into future meetings. We updated our calendar for the Spring/Summer months. The next meeting will be a “lunch out” on Friday, March 20th, at Perkins on Elm Road @12:30 p.m. DO REMEMBER, ALL LADIES ARE WELCOME!



### Prayer List

Donna Beaver  
Don Howren  
Betty Jamison  
John Lyons  
Betty Mark  
Jerry Stephens  
Sue Torno  
Gayle Vidovich

Mary Kate Zweidinger

### Prayer Ministry

The Prayer Chain has been slightly revised. As a reminder, names of people for the Prayer Chain with specific messages are prayed for regularly for that person for seven days. Be sure to begin your request by calling the church office or by filling out a prayer request card.

Names on the Prayer List in the weekly bulletin will be carried for that month unless requested it be continued on or removed prior to the end of the month.

\*\*If anyone would like to be added to the Prayer Chain, do not hesitate. There is always room for more. Just notify the church office (330) 394-4741 or fill our a prayer request card.

### Emergency Fund

In July 2009, the Floating Five Committee decided to start an emergency account to help those in the church having an unexpected need for money such as a car repair, medical bill, or legitimate need as recommended by church members or staff, etc. Please speak with Judy Fabian, Keith Burger, Karen Schoch, or Rev. Gammon should you have such a need. This is a confidential service available to any church member, staff member, or anyone who attends regularly. This is not intended to be an ongoing source of income but rather for emergency situations which one might encounter.



# Choir Christmas Party



**First United Church of Christ**

280 E. Market Street  
Warren, Ohio 44481  
(330) 394-4741  
Email: firstuccwarren@gmail.com



*The church with the "golden dome"*

website  
[www.firstuccwarren.org](http://www.firstuccwarren.org)

**Pastor:**

Rev. Gerald Gammon

**Pastor Emeritus:**

Joe Doran  
Everett Gould

**Elder Emeritus:**

Al Conklin  
Nick Fabian  
Don Howren  
Ed Gilbert  
Glenn Mark  
Sylvia Moyes  
Bill Paxson  
George Schneider  
Bill Schoch  
Charles Weller  
Ken Wright

**Deacon Emeritus:**

Dick Leiby



**Consistory**

**President:** Bill Paxson

**Elders:** Jim DeSavigny 12/31/21  
Craig Cozad 12/31/20  
Donny Longworth 12/31/20  
Ron Schoch 12/31/21

**Vice President:** Ron Schoch

**Secretary:** Nancy Hamrick

**Deacons:** Emily Burkett 12/31/22  
Sheryl Cozad 12/31/22  
Marian Gammon 12/31/22  
Mark Gammon 12/31/21  
Brenda Hibbard 12/31/21  
Candy Lemasters 12/31/22  
Debbie Wimer 12/31/21

**Treasurer:** Donny Longworth

**Financial Officer:** Craig Cozad

**Bookkeeper:** Sheryl Cozad

