



July

Parish News

2023

First United Church of Christ

A Note from Your Pastor

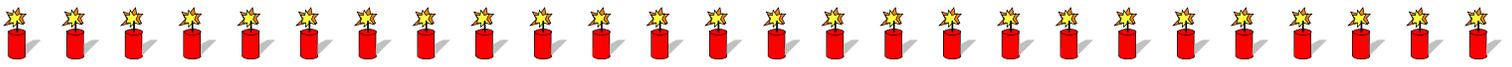
It is my sincere hope that you all are doing well and enjoying the summer season as we continue into the month of July. This month we mark the anniversary of the birth of our nation and the declaration of our freedom. Our independence from England was and is a precious thing and we should be ever mindful of its importance. Important not only to our citizens, but to the entire world! Where would the world be now without the United States of America?

While our country has its flaws, it remains a world leader and an advocate for justice worldwide. One of our greatest freedoms is the right to worship as we see fit without retribution from our government. A right that so few in this country exercise. Look around and see how many churches are closing or are forced to combine to stay solvent. People seem to have lost faith, or in some cases never developed it to begin with.

There is thought that perhaps we Americans have grown to comfortable with our lives. It has been many generations since we have felt the need for saving, for help to survive, and we have grown complacent. We feel no discomfort that makes us seek a higher being or divine intervention. We have therefore forgot or turned away from God or at least don't feel the need to seek Him out and worship him with others. We have been blessed, but fail to recognize where it comes from, thinking we did things on our own.

It is rather ironic to me that we fail to worship God for all He does for us, but we are quick to either blame or turn away from God because bad things happen in our lives. I've read that the youth of today don't believe in a being that would allow tragedy to occur. While their understanding of how God works is not faith based, they see faith as an either-or thing. Either God does what I think He should all the time or there can't be a God.

(continued on page 2)



A Note from Your Pastor

Yes, God does allow bad things to happen from time to time. We face weather disasters, plane crashes and train derailments. We murder, we steal, we do lots of bad things. God has given us rules to live by, we choose not to follow them, just as many disobey the laws of our governments. Natural disasters happen not by His hand but by the conditions of nature. It is horrible what a storm can do! But it is also a miracle that more harm does not occur!

We enjoy our independence, we enjoy our God given free will, but we often forget why we have these blessings. Our Lord, gave them to us. We have the choice to stay home on Sundays, we have the choice not to support a church or come into fellowship with others. And in this country, we have the right to do the same. But when we finally wake up and see that we needed God all along where will we go to worship Him? His churches are closing.

See you in church,

Pastor Gerry

Annual Church Picnic



Date: Saturday, August 26, 2023

Time: noon ~ 4:00 p.m.

Where: Howland Township Park

Join us for food, fun, and fellowship! Please plan on bringing a covered dish, your own place settings, chairs, and games for all ages to play. Everyone is welcome!





JUNE UPATE

Happy Independence Day everyone! July 4th has always been a holiday Karen and I always look forward to. It's the peak of summer with parades, picnics and many celebrations for the birthday of this great country. As a Christian I am so grateful to live in a country where I can practice my faith without interference from the government or anyone else. I'm sure there are those who feel somewhat differently and that is their choice as long as it doesn't step on my freedom to choose as I wish. My thoughts on those individuals is they should be looking more inward when they examine their faith. Our country is not perfect. There are many things that need to be addressed. This can be done by more forward thinking and resisting the urge to look backwards.

In many ways the same can be said about our church. First United Church of Christ is not the same as it used to be and probably never will. We face many challenges as our church family gets smaller. There may be changes, some of which will not be popular. I am frequently asked, "Is the church going to close?" I hope not, but I cannot say for sure. That will be dictated by several things. Two things that will have a big impact on that issue are finances and attendance. Currently our money situation is not great but we are ok, especially given the fact we have no debt. The item that bothers me more is lack of people. If we run out of people, the money doesn't matter.

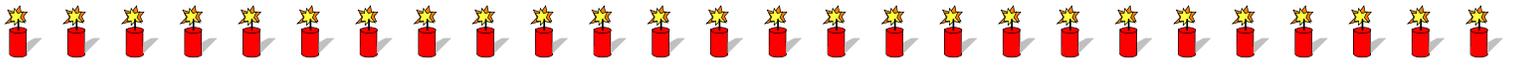
In spite of this issue, I want us to remain positive. Any changes can result in two different mindsets as to how we address them. Anxiety and Excitement. At a recent high school graduation I listened to a student's address to his classmates as he pointed out the two different ways to approach the future.

If you have anxiety about something you are nervous about what bad might happen. If you are excited about something you are looking forward to what good might happen. For most of us we have a little bit of both. Let's hope Excitement wins out. Remember no matter what happens at 280 East Market Street, God is still there for us as His love has no boundaries.

Till next month, see you in church,

Ron Schoch





Friday Funnies

**I am a person who wants
to do a lot of things
trapped in a body
that doesn't.**



Toy Drive

From now until the end of November we will be holding a toy drive for the Warren Family Mission. If you wish to participate, there will be a bin in the lobby where you can drop off any new, unwrapped toys at any time.

In late November or early December, we will take these toys to the Mission for their yearly Christmas give away. Please keep in mind that while it's fun to shop for the little ones, there are teenagers who need love and support at Christmas also.

Thank you in advance for your kindness. If you have any questions, please see Karen Schoch.

May Income

May Expenditures

May Net

\$4,569.75

\$8,483.80

-\$3,914.05





Prayer List

American People
 Donna Beavers
 Steven Bupp
 Becky Callahan
 Betsy Chapley
 Roger Davis
 East Palestine People
 Phil Fletcher

Diane Lemasters
 Peggy Marshall
 Norma Patchin
 Mary Sabol
 Bob Spencer
 Ukraine People

Shut-ins:
 Donna Beavers
 Ruth Gilbert
 Betty Howren
 Betty Jamison
 Dick Leiby
 Marilyn Leiby
 Glenn Mark

Norma Patchin
 Sue Schoch
 Bob Spencer
 Barb Sponaugle

Floating Five 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.

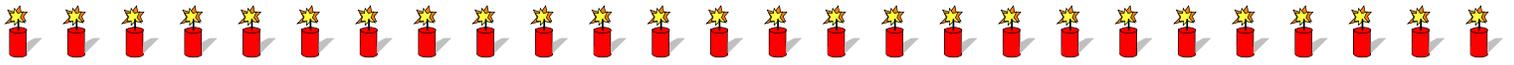
Prayer Chain/List

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 you would like to be a caller and offer prayers for those on the prayer chain, please notify the church office (330) 394-4741 or fill out a prayer request card.





Independence Day

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





Independence Day Word List

BUNS

CHARCOAL

COOKOUTS

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

FIREWORKS

FREEDOM

HAMBURGERS

HOTDOGS

INDEPENDENCE DAY

LIGHTER FLUID

PROPANE

REVOLUTIONARY

STAR SPANGLED BANNER

TEA PARTY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Friday Funnies



" THE DOCTOR TOLD ME I NEEDED TO BURN SOME FAT, SO I'M GRILLING A STEAK! "



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

Pastor:

Rev./Dr. Gerald Gammon

Pastor Emeritus:

Joe Doran
Everett Gould

Elder Emeritus:

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

Deacon Emeritus:

Dick Leiby



Consistory

President:	Ron Schoch	Elders:	Keith Burger	12/31/23
			Jr. Fumerola	12/31/24
Vice President:	Bill Paxson		Linda Paxson	12/31/24
			Bill Paxson	12/31/24
			Karen Schoch	12/31/23
Secretary:	Nancy Hamrick			
Treasurer:	Rev. Gammon	Deacons:	Melanie Burger	12/31/24
			Sheryl Cozad	12/31/25
			Judy Fabian	12/31/24
Financial Officer:	Sheryl Cozad		Marian Gammon	12/31/25
			Candy Lemasters	12/31/25
Bookkeeper:	Sheryl Cozad		Sharon Longworth	12/31/25
			Debbie Wimer	12/31/24