

Message from the Pastor:

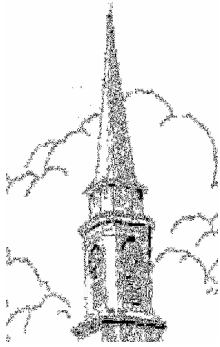
Dear Friends,

As I consider the season ahead, I am reminded of what John Calvin taught concerning the Sabbath: the rest we are looking for in our days is a rest from evil doing, a rest in an active and abiding fellowship with God and with one another.

To that end, let us keep in mind these words from Hebrews 10:23-25 : "Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching." (New Revised Standard Version)

As St. Augustine prayed: "Our hearts are restless until they rest in you!", so I pray that you would find refreshment in God this summer.

Pastor Jim



A PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The Tower June 2007

The Story of Angels - as told by children

It's not easy to become an angel! First, you die. Then you go to heaven, then there's still the flight training to go through. And then you got to agree to wear those angel clothes. Matthew, 9

Angels work for God and watch over kids when God has to go do something else. Mitchell, 7

My guardian angel helps me with math, but he's not much good for science. Henry, 8

Angels don't eat, but they drink milk from holy cows. Jack, 6

Angels talk all the way while they're flying you up to heaven. The basic message is where you went wrong before you got dead. Daniel, 9

When an angel gets mad, he takes a deep breath and counts to ten. And when he lets out his breath, somewhere there's a tornado. Reagan, 10

Angels have a lot to do and they keep very busy. If you lose a tooth, an angel comes in through your window and leaves money under your pillow. Then when it gets cold, angels go north for the winter. Sara, 6

Angels live in cloud houses made by God and his son, who's a very good carpenter. Jared, 8

All angels are girls because they gotta wear dresses and boys didn't go for it. Antonio, 9

My angel is my grandma who died last year. She got a big head start on helping me while she was still down here on earth. Katelynn, 9

Some of the angels are in charge of helping heal sick animals and pets. And if they don't make the animals get better, they help the kid get over it. Vicki, 8

What I don't get about angels is why, when someone is in love, they shoot arrows at them. Sarah, 7

Bits from Benevolence

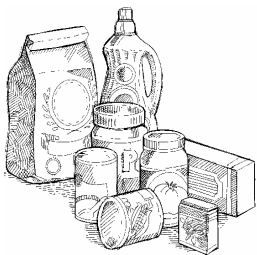
FROM THE CHURCH LIBRARY...

SUMMER READING SUGGESTIONS



ONE GREAT HOUR of SHARING - Thanks for the support of the annual OGHS drive. Totals were not available for the Tower deadline but will be included in the July Tower. Those present at the "Around the World Coffee Hour" sponsored by Benevolence after worship on May 20 were treated to: Mexican dip, Tabooli, Sweet German Pretzels, Humus, Egg Rolls, Fruit, and Pizzelles.

MARJORIE EVANS BEQUEST - The committee approved a gift of \$150. to **BLESSINGS OF SUMMIT AND PORTAGE COUNTIES**, a non-profit organization which promotes the personal responsibility of teen parents to complete their education by providing discipleship and childcare money through the church community and other services.



NORTHERN SUMMIT COUNTY EMERGENCY CENTER - A reminder that with school out for the summer, children will be eating more at home and thus more food items like peanut

butter and jelly, macaroni and cheese, canned soups, cereals, etc. are needed and summer is often a time when food donations are less. Please remember the Emergency Center as you shop for your family and take advantage of the 2 for 1 sales. The collection container is located in the downstairs hall going to the kitchen.

USED EYE GLASSES, POP TABS, AND SOUP LABELS are also being collected and will be processed through Church Women United. All three items may be left on the shelf just inside the church library door.

CHILDREN - With no Sunday School in the summer, it is a good time to take advantage of some of the special children's books in the church library including some biblical stories, folk tales, stories about people of the bible, and creation stories.

YOUNG ADULTS - There are fiction and non-fiction books available in the YA section written to inspire and offer guidance for youth during this important time of making choices.

ADULTS - A popular series of fiction donated recently to the library are the Swallow Island Mystery Series published by Guideposts. These will be featured on the library book cart during June.

RECENT NON FICTION DONATIONS include:

The Everything World's Religions Book, which is an easy-to-follow guide to understanding the world's religions including Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Native American practices, Shintoism, and Taoism.

Chicken Soup for the Couple's Soul with inspirational stories about love and relationships has been added to the other selections of the Chicken Soup series, which has its own section on the shelves.

NEWS from CHRISTIAN ED



Take the plunge! Join us at Great Bible Reef VBS June 18-22, 2007 from 6:00-8:30 PM. Get ready for a week of fun games, crafts, songs, skits, stories, and friendships! It is not too late to register and, if you refer or bring a friend, you can still get a **free** copy of the Great Bible Reef music CD! Get yours now - register today! Please see Denise Sheehan or Debbie Dolfi for registration forms and/or information. In the meantime, start saving those pennies and be on the lookout for the cutest teddy bears! At VBS this year, we will be assisting the American Red Cross with a 'Penny Drive' and a Teddy Bear Drive.' You may also give the gift of life by donating at the American Red Cross Blood Drive on June 26!

The schedule for VBS and a list of volunteers is included on the next page. If anyone has any questions, please see Debbie Dolfi or email her at deborah_dolfi@yahoo.com

Christian Ed Sunday

Sunday, June 10th will be Christian Ed Sunday. This is the Sunday that Christian Ed conducts the service. The theme this year is "Body of Christ". Graduates, both high school and post high school, will be recognized as well as acolytes that are moving on and those that are moving up. Bibles will be presented to those 3rd graders that will move up to the 4th grade. Sunday School will resume the first Sunday after Labor Day. Have a great summer and don't forget to join us for Vacation Bible School June 18 to June 22.

RELAY FOR LIFE NEWS



Relay For Life is scheduled to take place on June 2 - 3 at Twinsburg Tiger Stadium behind Chamberlin Middle School. It is scheduled to kick off at 12:00 p.m. on June 2. The event is a fun-filled overnighter designed to bring together those who have been touched by cancer in our community. At the event, cancer survivorship is celebrated and money is raised to help the American Cancer Society in its mission to save lives, help those who have been touched by cancer, and empower individuals to fight back. During the event, teams of people gather at schools, fairgrounds, or parks and take turns walking or running laps. Each team tries to keep at least one team member on the track at all times.

Don't forget to buy your chances on the Relay For Life items that are available. They include a cooler on wheels, a picnic basket, a rolling duffel bag, a man's watch and a beach chair. Each chance is \$1.00. The drawing will be held on Saturday, June 2 at the Relay For Life event. You need not be present to win. Make all checks payable to the American Cancer Society. All items are on display downstairs in Fellowship Hall. Members will be available to answer any questions.

July 7th will be the Church Night for the Akron Aeros game. There will be fireworks after the game. Ticket price is \$7.00 each and will include the fireworks. There are 30 tickets available. There is a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Mark this date on your calendar!!! Any questions, please see Gayle Davet.

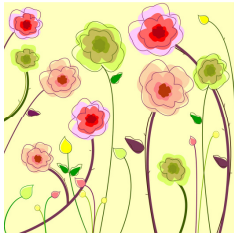
2007 VBS Volunteer Schedule

Event/Area	Leader	Assistants/Helpers
Decorations	Sanctuary & Church Banner -Judy Richner Lesson Rooms Per Leader	Narthex & Church Front – Debbie Dolfi
Advertisement	Monthly Tower & Weekly Bulletin – Kathy Lessman	Press Releases – Julie Miller
Registration/Attendance/	Denise Sheehan	Kathy Lessman & Debbie Dolfi
Mission - American Red Cross	Debbie Dolfi	Phil Weiss
Photography	Janet Hanzel	Debbie Dolfi
Opening/Music/CDs	Janet Hanzel	Debbie Dolfi
Story Telling	Pastor Jim Link	Caitlin Sheehan & Kayla Bensie
Crafts	Terri Bissell	Judy Richner
Science	Julie Miller	Madison Miller
Games	Chrissy Sterling w/ Ashley Bissell as Back-up	Stewart Lessman
Kitchen/Snacks	Yvette Shilling	Andrea Bennett, Denise Sheehan, Diane Powell, Nichole Cook Wunderle
Pre-School/Pre-K	Ariel Bissell & Karen Powell	Gwen Richner & Vivian Weiss
Primary (K-1)	Lisa Downer	Todd Downer
Elementary (2-3)	Mary Lou Sheller	Mark Holzwarth
Pre-Teen (4-6)	Phil & Jane Weiss	Cassie Pietrantozzi
Tour Guide/Outreach and/or Adult Volunteers/Floaters	Denise Sheehan, Diane Powell, Debbie Dolfi Nichole Cook Wunderle	Joel Pietrantozzi
Closing	Janet Hanzel	Debbie Dolfi & Joel Pietrantozzi

2007 VBS Schedule

Schedule of Events- Monday Through Thursday	Time	Schedule of Events- Monday Through Thursday	Time
Open Registration	5:30-5:55 PM	Coral Crafts Site	varies
Opening/Prayer & Reef Rhythm Site	6:00-6:15 PM	Seawater Science Site	7:30-8:10 PM
Lessons & Snacks	6:20-6:45 PM	Great Barrier Games	varies
Deep Sea Story Telling Site	6:50-7:25 PM	Closing/Prayer	8:15-8:30 PM

THE FLOWERS ARE PLANTED !



Thanks to the following people for their help in preparing the beds and or planting the flowers at the church: Andrea Bennett, Terri Bissell, Stan Jewell, Kathy Lessman, Larry Schmidt, Mary Lou Sheller, Bonnie Williams, and Kristin Williams. A special thanks to the daytime Women's Fellowship for buying the flowers and the mulch! If anyone has an extra watering can that they would be willing to donate, we could make sure that the flowers (especially in the back) get watered.

Seekers

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The number of prayer shawls made and given away through the Prayer Shawl Ministry now exceeds 250. High School graduates who are members of the congregation will each be given a shawl/wrap on Christian Ed Sunday. The group will continue to meet throughout the summer on the second and fourth Mondays at 7 p.m. Please join us for this special time of fellowship, prayer, and sharing.

2007 VBS Great Bible Reef Snack List

The following is a list of snacks that are needed for Bible School. There will be a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall for these items. Please indicate your name and how many you will bring. Thanks to everyone for all of their help. Any questions, please see Debbie Dolfi or leave a message with the office. We will also need sugar, brown sugar, cinnamon, and vanilla to mix for some of the snacks. You can bring in your items and leave them in the kitchen labeled for Bible School.

5 sets of 2 - 9" prepackaged pie crusts (in the refrigerated section)

9 sticks of butter

6 Cups of Raisins

6 Cups of Dried Apricot Bits

50 Chocolate Pudding Cups

3 Bunches of Celery

5 15-ounce Bags of Pretzel Sticks

2 boxes EACH of Chex rice cereal, wheat cereal, and corn cereal

1 15-ounce bag of Grid-Shaped Pretzels

16 ounces of Fish-Shaped Fruit Chews

2 large boxes (at least 8 ounces) Fish-Shaped Crackers

3 8-ounce cans of Crushed Pineapple

5 14-ounce jars of apple butter

6 Cups of Dried Cranberries

6 Cups of Dried Apple Bits

3 Boxes of Graham Cracker Sticks

3 8-ounce Packages of Cream Cheese

5 16-ounce Jars of Nacho Cheese Dip

June Coffee Hour



The following people have signed up for Coffee Hour for the month of June:

June 3 - Larry & Lynn Schmidt

June 10 - All Church Picnic

No Coffee Hour

June 17 - Father's Day Breakfast

June 25 - Open

The sign up sheet for the summer is also up. Please take time to add your name to the list.

Father's Day Tribute June 17, 2007



The Fellowship Committee is sponsoring a Father's Day breakfast. Serving will start at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, June 17 and will conclude at 10:00

a.m. The menu includes pancakes (with nails), bacon (with snails), scrambled eggs (with puppy dog's tails), toast, juice, coffee, and tea. Bring your dad out for a treat before the service. There is a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall so they can get an idea of how many to expect.

Lockup Trustee for the month of June - Ron Valentine

June Softball

Schedule



All games are played at the Glenwood Park ball fields. Come on out and play or support our team. Games will continue through August.

June 6 8:30 pm Field No. 1
First Congregational Church vs.
United Methodist of Chagrin

June 13 9:45 pm Field No. 1
Saints Cosmas & Damian vs.
First Congregational Church

June 20 9:45 pm Field No. 2
First Congregational Church vs.
Walton Hills Church

June 27 8:30 pm Field No. 2
Twinsburg Church of Christ vs.
First Congregational Church

Church Picnic June 10, 2007



The Church Picnic will be held on June 10th this year. It will take place in the large pavilion at Chamberlin Park from 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm. There will be no coffee hour that day. There is a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall for dessert, salads, or munchies. Meat / buns, condiments, ice and drinks will be provided. Come on out and join the fun.

Member News

Happy Birthday to:

Korey Abbott

06/02/07

Bethany Conway

06/05/07

Larry Cook

06/06/07

Dorla Towslee

06/07/07

Chuck Geither

06/08/07

Shari Schultz

06/10/07

Kerry Kalchert

06/10/07

Kayla Bencie

06/12/07

Kyla Sokolowski

06/12/07

Kenny Prentice

06/17/07

Ruth Prentice

06/19/07

Melanie Merritt

06/21/07

Patt Barbey

06/22/07

Phil Weiss

06/24/07



If we missed your birthday, please call the church office so we can update our records.

Happy Anniversary to:

Ken & Roni Prentice

06/06/1981

Jim & Elsie Peel

06/14/1969

George & Marge Richner

06/16/1956

Joel & Mikki Pietrantozzi

06/17/1989

Russ & Kathleen Roberts

06/18/1988

Ken & Ruth Prentice

06/19/1954

Mike & Annetta Muir

06/19/1976

Bob & Marianne Davet

06/20/1959

John & Dorla Towslee

06/20/1964

Tim & Lori Bencie

06/20/1992

Jim & Denise Link

06/20/1993

Jim & Marge Roberts

06/21/1958

John & Bonnie Williams

06/22/1974

Bob & Jan Hanzel

06/28/2003



If we missed your anniversary, please call the church office so we can update our records.

In Remembrance of -

RICHARD L. TURNER, born Feb. 25, 1928 in Newton Falls, OH., passed away peacefully at his residence May 14, 2007. He is preceded in death by his parents, Park and Eleanor; his son and daughter-in-law, Robert and Cynthia; and brother, Donald. He is survived by his loving wife of 59 years, Audrey; daughters, Ginger Reese Thomas, and Ruth Jackson; grandchildren, Robert, Thomas "T.J.", Holley Horton and Heather Jackson; great grandchildren, Dusty and McKenzie Horton; brother, Earl, and sister, Avis Williams; and many nieces and nephews. Richard also leaves behind a host of friends from the Twinsburg area and many parts of Northeastern, OH. Richard retired from the Twinsburg Chrysler stamping plant in 1990 and was a Twinsburg School Bus driver for many years. Richard was known for his knowledge and help with small engine repair and lawnmower repair. You will be missed by many!

June Schedule

June Servers

- Bonnie Williams
- Ken Prentice
- Carol Zenisek
- Rick Sheehan
- Mike Muir
- Will Adams - Bread
- Andrea Bissell - Greeters
- Kenny Prentice - Lay Readers



Communion will be
Sunday, June 3rd this month

ATTENDANCE

	Sunday School	Worship Service
April 29 th	42	118
May 6 th	N/A	99
May 13 th	45	116
May 20 th	60	98



Scrap Booking Friday

June 15, 2007

6:00 p.m.—midnight
in the Fellowship Hall



Acolytes

June 03, 2007

Justin Doe
Jared Doe

June 10, 2007

Isaac Link
Emma Link

June 17, 2007

Gwen Richner
Seth Richner

June 24, 2007

Mark Holzwarth
Anthony Pietrantozzi

The families of the names in **bold** have Acolyte Coordinator Duty and should light the sticks and assist the acolytes.

Please see the instruction sheet posted on the wall next to the sticks.

If you are unable to serve on your assigned week,

please find a replacement and notify the church office of the change.

Thank you!

Attention Everyone!

The summer schedule for worship will begin on Sunday, June 24. Services will begin at 9:30 a.m. This will allow us to take advantage of the cooler morning air. Services will resume at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, September 9. Sunday School will also resume that day at 9:15 a.m.

Thank you - I would like to thank everyone that's been so kind to us in many ways during the loss of my uncle and sister-in-law, and also during my recovery time from my knee problems. Your cards, phone calls and home visits were greatly appreciated. It's taking time to get my strength back. It just takes time to heal. Thank you for your prayers and kindness.

Marge Roberts

Starting to Feel Better Now.

Matthew 11:28-30 *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."*

Last month I confessed to all of you that I was feeling tired and rundown. I quoted Isaiah 40:28-31 as a text that reminds us and exhorts us to renew our strength in the Lord. Being tired and rundown by the everyday grind of our lives is a common affliction that many of us regularly face. The text for today taken from Matthew quotes Jesus, our Lord and Savior, as He calls for all of us to place our burdens on Him and He will give us rest. Indeed, soothing words for a tired soul but it may cause us to ask the question, "How do I find rest, peace and contentment in Jesus Christ?"

This is the question that I have been asking myself for the past month and my purpose today is only to share an answer from my own perspective and experience. For me, the answer lies in where I place my relationship with God in the priority of my life. Do I make time for God only when I have everything else taken care of? I must confess that this has been my approach all too often and, as such, time spent in meditation over the Holy Scriptures or in prayer is sacrificed for work and other "critical" activities. It is no wonder that I wrote about being mentally exhausted last month.

Laying our burdens upon Christ and finding rest in Him starts first and foremost in our relationship with Him. If I do believe that all Scripture is "God-Breathed" (and I do) than I should hear the call of Jesus and make my relationship with God a priority. Not because I am afraid that something bad will happen to me if I don't but because the Creator of the heavens and earth has invited all of us into a personal relationship with Him.

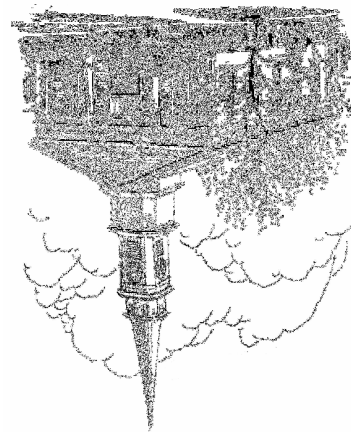
What I have come to realize is that it comes down to my faith in the relationship. If I have a headache, I won't hesitate to take an aspirin as I know that the aspirin will relieve the headache. Well, how about "rest for my soul"? Are there any of us who do not want rest for our souls? This is the basis of how I have been adjusting my approach to my relationship with God and, in truth, 'His yoke is easy and His burden is light'. I feel better prepared for the burdens of life by making my relationship with God a higher priority and not being so quick to forgo time for that relationship to address secular issues and concerns.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. - Romans 15:13

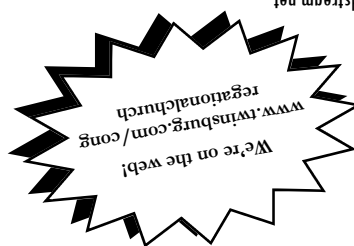
In Christ,

Joel S. Pietrantozzi, Moderator

On the square in Twinsburg
since 1848



Dated Material—
Please Rush!



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Office Hours:
Monday through Friday
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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A Publication of the First Congregational Church

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Come worship with us
and bring a friend!
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Summer Hours begin
June 24 at 9:30 a.m.

Tower Submissions

Articles for the *Tower* may be e-mailed directly to the church at firstcongregational.church@windstream.net. Hard copies, CD's, or diskettes may be dropped off at the office.

Tower deadlines are posted on the monthly calendar and in the Sunday worship bulletin. For questions, or to be added to or taken off the mailing list, please send an e-mail or call the church office at 330-425-2181.