

Message from the Pastor:

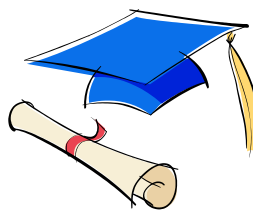


Dear Friends,

One of my favorite verses of the Bible is I Peter 5:7 “Cast all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you!” God, in his care for his children, does not want them to be burdened by anxieties, and the only way they can unburden themselves is by placing that which causes them anxieties into his lap and into his hands, in prayer. He himself is troubled by all of our troubles, particularly the trouble we cause ourselves by thinking that he is against us, doesn’t care, or is powerless to help. We can become unburdened only by burdening God, and God invites us to do exactly that, in his care.

Pastor Jim

On Sunday, June 1, 2008, the pulpit committee will present Reverend Mary Kay Krejci. Reverend Kay will conduct our worship service, which will be followed by a special congregational meeting to decide whether or not to call Rev. Kay as our Pastor. Before we meet Kay in the pulpit we will have two opportunities to meet her socially and hopefully come to know her a bit. The first will be a Continental Breakfast on Friday, May 30 at 9:00 a.m. The second will be at a pot luck dinner on Saturday, May 31 at 5:30 p.m. There is a sign up sheet for the pot luck in Fellowship Hall. Please plan on attending at least one of these meet and greet opportunities.



The following people will be graduating this year. They will be recognized on Christian Ed Sunday. If anyone has any information about anyone else graduating, please contact the office.

Twinsburg High School

Kenny Prentice

Colleges & Universities

Stephanie Schultz

Alicia Van Gilder

Congratulations to everyone!!

DISASTER RELIEF – Often following natural disasters such as the recent cyclone in Myanmar, earthquake in China, tornadoes in the U.S., the question is asked what is the church doing? A reminder that because of your past donations such as to Blanket Sunday and One Great Hour of Sharing, we are already responding in the areas affected by the disasters. In addition, you can direct donations through the church to disaster relief ANYTIME throughout the year. The Benevolence Committee will direct any donations to the appropriate agency often Church World Service Disaster Relief. You can also request your donation be directed to a specific agency such as the Red Cross by noting so on your giving envelope. Any gifts given through the church are recorded as part of your personal church contributions record.

To see how Church World Service is at work throughout the world, see the weekly CWS Hotline printout, which is posted on the Benevolence Bulletin Board OR check out Churchworldservice.org. on the internet.

Please note: The Benevolence Committee extended the OGHs giving time for two weeks because of the recent disasters. Therefore, the final disbursement for One Great Hour of Sharing was not determined in time to share the amount for this issue of the Tower.

LETTERS FROM DARJEELING, INDIA

– Recently received letters from Tenzin and Palden are posted on the “Global Ministries” bulletin board at the bottom of the steps from the narthex. Although since Palden is 18 and no longer eligible for sponsorship, we are still receiving his letters from the Tibetan Refugee-Center along with letters from Tenzin, the new

child we sponsor. Similar in content (the letters have obviously been copied by Tenzin and Palden), they relate activities and political concerns of the refugee youth.

Also, posted on the board is a recent newsletter from Global Ministries sharing their efforts to support the ministries of “partners around the world on behalf of world peace to promote mutual understanding and respect.”

Seekers Prayer Shawl Ministry

Thanks to the generous donation from an anonymous donor, an additional 40 plus shawls can be made by the Seekers and given to anyone who would benefit from the love and warmth of a shawl. The Seekers will meet throughout the summer on the second and fourth Mondays from 7 to 8 p.m. with the exception of June 23 during the week of Vacation Bible School.

Women's Fellowship News . . .

IT'S PICNIC TIME FOR WOMEN'S
FELLOWSHIP...

Greet summer and the picnic season with the daytime Women's Fellowship for an indoor “memory” picnic on Thursday, June 5, at noon. All are invited; bring a dish to share (picnic food), a memory and perhaps a picture to share of a special picnic in your past. Devotions and a brief meeting will follow the picnic; this will be the last gathering of the group until September.



Summer is just around the corner and we're planning an exciting Vacation Bible School (VBS) adventure for your kids! Are you looking for a safe, friendly, and fun environment for

your kids? Then sign up today for 'God's Big Backyard' VBS! This fun-filled Vacation Bible School is for everyone between the ages of 3 and 12. The adventure begins Monday, June 23, 2008 and continues through Friday, June 27, 2008. Sessions run from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM each day.

Get ready for an outdoor adventure that starts in our own backyard and gets bigger each day as the kids take the love of Jesus into their neighborhoods and communities as well as explore and create through fun-filled crafts, music, snacks, science projects, games and make new friends!

Because this year's VBS mission theme centers around serving others, we are partnering with The United Service Organization (USO). We will be gathering items to donate for USO care packages that will be sent to the troops, or deployed service members.

We are looking for volunteers as well as participants! If interested, please contact Debbie Dolfi in person, by phone at 330.405.6916, or via e-mail at deborah_dolfi@yahoo.com.

Registration is open and is going on now. For more information or to register for VBS, visit the church office between the hours of 9:00 AM and 1:00 PM, call the Church office at 330.425.2181, or see any Christian Education committee member. To reward early registration, every family that registers prior to June 8, 2008 will receive a copy of the Backyard Bash CD. Sign up today!

2008 VBS Snack Donation List

- 4 15-ounce Jars of Light Cheese Whiz (In The Refrigerated Section)
- 4 15-ounce Bags of Pretzel Sticks
- 6 Packages of 8 or 48 6" Flour Tortillas
- 24 Medium Bananas
- Package of Red String Licorice
- 48 Chocolate Pudding Cups
- 4 Boxes of Graham Cracker Sticks
- Package of Mini-Marshmallows
- 2 Packages of Butter
- 3 40-oz Jars Peanut Butter
- 3 Bags of Powdered Sugar
- 8 12-oz Bags of Chocolate Chips
- 10 12-oz Boxes of Crispix Cereal (or 116 2/3 Ounces)
- 2 Gallons of Vanilla Ice Cream
- 3 24-oz Bottles of Chocolate (or Other) Syrup
- 4 14-oz Cans Pressurized Whipped Cream
- 3 Bags of Mini-Chocolate Chips, Candies and/ or Nuts
- Several Containers of Multicolored Sprinkles
- 1 12 oz Jar Maraschino Cherries
- Bottled Water
- Helium Tank <For Balloons>
- Several Bags of Ice
- Powdered Drink Mix - Lemonade, Iced Tea, Fruit Punch
- Small Luncheon Plates, Cups, Napkins
- 50 Paper/Plastic Cups or Bowls & Spoons
- Package of 1 -oz Condiment Cups

There will be a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall for these items. Please fill in your name next to the item and how much you will contribute. Thanks. Any questions, see Debbie Dolfi.

VBS USO Donation List

The following is a list of items that will be collected during VBS. Please bring them to Bible School with you. If you are not attending Bible School, please plan on dropping off your items on Sunday, June 22 or any evening during Bible School (June 23—27). Thanks to everyone for their participation.

Personal Hygiene Items:

Men's Deodorant

Mouthwash (travel size/no glass)

Dental Floss

Chapstick

Shaving Cream (travel size)

Eye Drops

Ear Drops

Sunscreen

Bug Spray (OFF Deep Woods Towelettes)

Toilet paper (Single Rolls or Travel Size)

Azibanato C. Emiete enjoyed our "Tower" newsletter and always shares them with members of his church.

He was able to donate some land to establish the college of the Rev. D. Ockiya, College of Theology and Management Sciences. Dr. Ockiya was the only one that was able to translate the Bible into one of the dialects in Nigeria.

Azibanato donated the land in appreciation of Dr. Ockiya's service and in remembrance of the Weavers and help that our church rendered to him.

It is heart warming to know that Christians so far away share concerns of our Twinsburg members, and pray for us. May we continue to do so in the name of Jesus Christ.

- from Lucille Fiorelli

Thank You!

---to the Women's Fellowship for again funding flowers and mulch for the outside of the church. This year's flowers are dedicated in memory of Lois Gandee who had been an active member of Women's Fellowship and who for a number of years was instrumental in helping with the church flower beds. She gave time and energy to help clean up around the exterior of the church and to do the planting.

---to the youth who helped out with the Relay for Life Spaghetti dinner. They did a wonderful job.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to service on the Alter Guild. The schedule is rotated on a monthly basis. Responsibilities include:

1. Keep the candles filled with oil.
2. Keep the candelabrum clean.
3. Keep the communion cloths clean and repaired.
4. Change the paraments as needed, following the church liturgical calendar year.

Please see Louise Jackson if you have any questions, or call the office if you are interested.

**Lockup Trustee for the
month of June -
Ken A. Prentice**

June Softball Schedule



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

- June 1** 6:30 pm Field No. 2
United Methodist of Chagrin vs.
First Congregational Church
- June 8** 5:00 pm Field No. 2
Walton Hills Church vs.
First Congregational Church
- June 15** 6:30 pm Field No. 2
Christ the King vs.
First Congregational Church
- June 22** 5:00 pm Field No. 1
First Congregational Church vs.
Saints Cosmas & Damian
- June 29** 6:30 pm Field No. 1
First Congregational Church vs.
St. Rita

Youth Group Schedule

June 1—Car Wash after Worship Service for a donation to Youth Group. Hot dogs, chips and pop will be for sale. Funds from the car wash will help go to offset camp costs.

August 30—Redwood Day in the afternoon.

Sept. 14—Canoeing after Worship Service

Summer Music

VOLUME 54
ISSUE 6
THE TOWER

June 1—Adult Choir (last Sunday until Fall)

June 8—Children's Choir (last Sunday until Fall)

June 15—Chime Choir

June 22—Carol Zenisek

June 29—VBS Kid's Songs

There are still Sundays open for the rest of the summer. Please be sure to sign up on the sheet in the Choir Room. Need help, see Chrissy Sterling.

Attention Everyone!

The summer schedule for worship will begin on Sunday, June 15. 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 14. Sunday School will also resume that day at 9:15 a.m.

Warming the Hearts

On Saturday, June 7 from 12:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. there will be a free Christian Music festival to benefit Warming the Hearts/ It will be held at the Faith United Methodist Church on Post Road. It will feature Sanctuary of Praise, ServantHeart, Solon UMC, Gail Mangeri, Hearts Afire and more. The fundraiser will include a silent auction, food sales and a free will offering.

Happy Birthday to:

Bethany Conway

06/05/08

Dorla Towslee

06/07/08

Chuck Geither

06/08/08

Shari Schultz

06/10/08

Kayla Bencie

06/12/08

Kyla Sokolowski

06/12/08

Zoey Downer

06/17/08

Kenny Prentice

06/17/08

Ruth Prentice

06/19/08

Rick Herrilko

06/20/08

Melanie Merritt

06/21/08

Phil Weiss

06/24/08

Denise Sheehan

06/26/08

Caitlin Sheehan

06/27/08



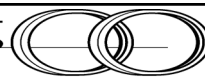
If we missed your birthday or anniversary, please call the church office so we can update our records.

In Remembrance of -

LOIS JANE GANDEE (nee Humpal, 86, of Twinsburg, Beloved wife of the late Charles Gandee; loving mother of Georgann (Dale) Mirgliotta, and the late James Gandee; dear grandmother of Philip, Marci and Nick; great grandmother of Anthony; sister of Donald Humpal, and the late Richard Humpal. She died Saturday, April 26, 2008. Services were held Saturday, May 3, 2008.

Celebrating

An Anniversary This Month



Paul & Regina Munn	06/03/1983
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

Church Picnic

June 8, 2008



The Church Picnic will be held on June 8th 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 will be 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.

June Schedules

Acolytes Schedule

June Servers

- Rick Sheehan
- Dave Schilling
- Aaron Mayer
- Ken Prentice
- Judy Turk
- Bonnie Williams - Bread
- Dan Richner - Greeters



Communion will be
Sunday, June 1st this month

June 1, 2008
David Schilling
Jared Verbic

<u>June 8, 2008</u> Isaac Link Kevin Powell	<u>June 15, 2008</u> Melissa Schilling Andrew Prentice
<u>June 22, 2008</u> Jared Doe Sophie Keith	<u>June 29, 2008</u> Seth Richner Emma Link

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!

Scrap Booking Friday
June 20, 2008
6:00 p.m.—midnight
in the Fellowship Hall

June 2008

<u>Lay Reader's Schedule</u>	<u>Children's Sermon Schedule</u>
June 1—Ariel Bissell	June 1—Rev. Kay Krejci
June 8—Christian Ed	June 8—Christian Ed
June 15—Joel Pietrantozzi	June 15—Tom Holzwarth
June 22—Tara Schilling	June 22—Ariel Bissell
June 29—Jane Weiss	June 29—Terri Bissell

If there are any changes to this, please let the office know so that it can be correct in the bulletin.

Giving Unto Caesar

How will you spend your tax return?

Melody Pugh - April 12, 2006

It's impossible to talk Christianly about money without talking about stewardship. Most commonly, this involves acknowledging the many temptations of wealth, and exploring the call to be responsible for what God has provided. On one side of the stewardship discussion stand the likes of Tony Campolo and Ron Sider, calling for increased giving as a means of achieving social justice and economic equality. On the other, we hear well-developed arguments for the Christian foundations of market ideology and the role of Christians in business.

Tax time has a tendency to highlight all of these issues. At no other time of the year do we know so exactly how much we made, how much we gave, and how much we're going to appreciate that little bonus when the tax return shows up in our mailboxes or bank accounts. But this raises concern about a whole different set of habits and behaviors. Scripture has a lot to say about how we spend our money, and sometimes we don't listen so well.

Tax Time

No one will deny that tax time is stressful. Gathering the necessary paperwork, wading through the forms, and worrying (we hope unnecessarily) about an audit can drive some people to distraction. Missionaries and Christian ministries have struggled as changes to tax codes both in the United States and abroad have forced them to rethink their goals, best practices, and fundraising strategies. As these individuals and organizations work to get their finances in order, some begin to see taxes as necessary, some as a necessary evil.

Most Christians have strong perspectives on the relative importance of taxes, and see them as either helpful or harmful to social development and a sense of personal responsibility. But there's no denying that for many, taxes represent the crux of church/state relations, and by extension, how they view government involvement in their lives.

Giving Unto God

By most accounts, spending the money where it matters begins with the historical practice of tithing. With a greater concentration of funds, many churches have the opportunity to expand their social programs and offer more to their communities. Christians have been among the first to call for the forgiveness of international debts and the alleviation of poverty. The entrepreneurial spirit has even found creative ways to raise funds for charitable causes in ways that benefit the needy on both the supply and the giving side of the process.

As it turns out, Christians are some of the United States' most generous givers. But there's always room for growth. The biblical calls to give freely come frequently, as do the promises of prosperity. As we take stock of our financial priorities this tax-season, let's be sure to take time to reflect on which line items really matter. With respect and consideration we'll answer Christ's call to give unto Caesar what is Caesar's, to give unto God what is God's.

Melody Pugh is a Chicago-based freelance writer and graduate student in the humanities

The long wait is over, the time for action has come. As spring calls our part of the earth to awaken and prepare for the growing of new crops, so it is time for us to awaken and prepare to seed the future of our church home.

After months of prayer full work the Pulpit Search committee is presenting a candidate for the office of Pastor to our church family.

On Sunday, June 1, 2008, the committee will present Reverend Mary Kay Krejci. Reverend Kay will conduct our worship service, which will be followed by a special congregational meeting to decide whether or not to call Rev. Kay as our Pastor.

Before we meet Kay in the pulpit we will have opportunities meet her socially and hopefully come to know her a bit. There will be a Continental Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, May 30. There will also be a Pot Luck dinner on Saturday, May 31.

We have come to this moment in our history after a great deal of work by the committee. For nearly nineteen months this group has met weekly, often more than once a week. They started by creating a profile of our congregation to present to candidate. Taken from our own input, the churches profile was forwarded to the Western Reserve Association, who in kind forward it to the National Offices of the United Church of Christ.

Candidates who are seeking positions write personal profiles that are also submitted to the National Offices. Candidates review church profiles and ask to have their personal profiles sent to churches where think they may find a home. Our Pulpit Search Committee has reviewed and nearly forty profiles before presenting Rev Kay to us.

The committee heard Rev. Kay preach at the Burton Congregational Church, and then conducted an interview which lasted over three hours. This was followed by another telephone interview and finally the unanimous decision to ask Rev. Kaye to be presented to the Congregation.

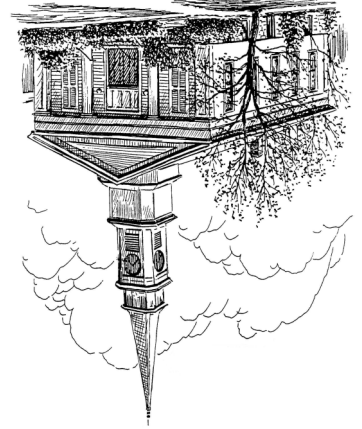
The entire procedure has been done within the guidelines set forth by the United Church of Christ, and in accordance with our own past practices. We realize that it seems a great leap of faith to vote on a new Pastor after only one weekends social meetings and a single worship service. We ask that have faith in the members of the committee and the many hours they have spent on this effort.

We urge you to make your decision prayerfully and objectively as we forge ahead into the future, strengthening our church, our home of faith.

Wishing You God's Peace and Love,

Will Adams and Carol Zenisek
Moderator and Co-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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Come worship with us
and bring a friend!
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 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.