

Message from the Pastor:



OUR LIFE TOGETHER

“Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!” It is the Easter proclamation! It is the beginning of a new creation. It is the beginning of newness in relationships with God and one another. Alleluia!

We know the risen Lord in the church, in the faith community. Our acts of love and mercy with one another and with those we meet, whether on the streets of our immediate neighborhood or in the larger setting of God’s world, reveal the risen Christ. The risen Christ became visible in the early church. (Acts 4:32-35) And the risen Christ becomes visible in us today.

Whenever, I use or hear the word “neighborhood”, Mister Rogers comes to mind. Maybe you remember the PBS children’s program, “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood”? Relationships were at the heart of this neighborhood. Feelings were important whether good or disturbing. Joy and love were celebrated. Hurt and fear were named, not ignored. And people could learn to work together and face the hurt and fear that would otherwise separate us from each other. Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood surprisingly endured alongside the more technically sophisticated productions in children’s programming. The pace was slow. Rarely did you feel hurried. Time, when spent with others, was a precious gift. And caring about and for others was valued and celebrated in the song concluding with the words, “Won’t you be my neighbor?”

Our neighborhood is both immediate and immense in world dimensions. We continue to be good neighbors in Twinsburg in the many ways members are serving in the community. And we have the opportunity to be good neighbors in the larger world community as we participate in the offering-ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING. Through this offering, we join with other churches in assisting in the bettering of living conditions in developing nations and helping with humanitarian aid and relief efforts around the world. Please see the BE-NEVOLENCE section for further information.

“BE THOU MY VISION” IT’S A GREAT HYMN AND A CALLING. - WEDNESDAY-MAY 20

For those able to attend the Church Council meeting in March, you had the privilege of meeting Charlene J. Smith, Minister of Evangelism for Church Development, Renewal and Vitality. She introduced us to a process for discerning and naming our church’s vision in ministry and developing an accompanying mission statement. She inspired such enthusiasm from those present that the Church Council asked if she would be willing to help us get started in the process. She has agreed and will be with us Wednesday, May 20. Come 6:00 p.m. for soup or salad meal. We will begin with Ms. Smith’s leading us in this process at 6:30 p.m. along with dessert. The stated purpose: *We gather to discern*

God's will for us as the church of today and the future. We do this through prayer, by relying on the Holy Spirit, by listening to the Still Speaking God, and by working together to take the appropriate action to move God's church forward.

Guidelines for meeting: 1-Acknowledge God's presence. 2-This is a safe space. 3-Everyone is asked to willingly participate. 4-Listen carefully to what is said. 5-Don't expect to agree all the time. 6- Because all view points and opinions are respected, a Christian attitude will be maintained when disagreeing. 7-Together decisions will be made to benefit the life of the church. 8-Look deep within and move beyond the obvious and search for a deeper truth. 9-Search for the right questions and trust that God will provide the answers. 10-All comments are to be phrased in the positive. 11-Laughter and fun are necessary ingredients for a successful time together.

Blessings, Kay Krejci

Benevolence News . . .

WHERE IS YOUR TREASURE? is the theme of this year's annual One Great Hour of Sharing Drive scheduled for May 17. Based on Matthew 6:21 "*Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also,*" this offering allows us to participate in a worldwide ministry of helping people change their lives in more than eighty countries. Working with international partners, the offering provides sources of clean water and food, education and health care, micro-credit loans, emergency relief, advocacy and resettlement for refugees. In addition, OGHS funds help people like us prepare for disasters before they arise and to rebuild following the devastating effects of disasters.

Please join the Benevolence Committee at the "Around the World" Coffee Hour following worship service on May 17. Fair Exchange Coffee will be introduced on that Sunday for members/friends who are not familiar with this program.

SCHOOL KITS – Thanks for the donations for the Church World Service School Kit supplies. At this time, there are enough items to complete 25 kits along with some extras, which will be used by Church Women United to make up other kits. Special thanks to the person who made 15 bags for the kits.



Scrap Booking Friday
May 15, 2009
6:00 p.m.—midnight
in the Fellowship Hall

Evening Women's Fellowship
The Evening Women's Fellowship group will meet on Monday, May 5 at 6:00 p.m. at Mavis Winkles. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you have questions, please see Carol Zenisek.



Graduate Information Needed

The Christian Ed committee is in the process of compiling a list of people that will be graduating this spring or summer from high school, college or post-graduate school, so that we may honor their accomplishments on Christian Ed Sunday, June 8. If you or a family member will be graduating this spring / summer semester or this past fall / winter semester, please submit the name of the graduate, the diploma or degree that was earned, the area of study and future plans to any member of the Christian Education committee, or drop it in the folder to the office.

ONGOING COLLECTIONS:

--Please remember the Emergency Center when you do your grocery shopping. The need for non-perishable food items goes on 365 days a year. **The Emergency Assistance Center is in desperate need of donations** of food items to stock their shelves and monetary donations. Please keep them in mind as you do your weekly shopping. Suggestions are rice, spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, instant potatoes, hamburger or tuna helper; however, all non-perishable food items are appreciated.

--Look for the new Lions collection box for used eyeglasses. The Lions Club (Rev. Kay is a member of the newly organized club in Twinsburg) has long been known for their efforts to recycle eyeglasses so that others may see better.

--Pop can tabs are also still be collected and directed through Church Women United for the Akron Children's Hospital Burn Unit.

The Christian Ed Committee has been busy planning, creative ways for kids to worship, create, play and sing! How might we accomplish this, you ask? Through Vacation Bible School – That is our task! We searched far and wide for a VBS theme that's fresh & fun, and puts on a really cool show, where kids will hear stories of those who teamed up with God and learn that God's with them wherever they *GO!*

Kids will be given a Bible Challenge each day which they will be encouraged to carry out in ways they choose. We'll give you a few hints and see if you can guess by our thought provoking and cleverly prepared clues. So, whether it is Bob Barker saying, "Come on down!" on the Price is Right, or the turning of letters on the Wheel of Fortune by Vanna White, or Regis Philbin asking the famous question, "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?", or someone exclaiming 'Deal or No Deal' to Howie Mandel, you can guess at what we are hinting by now, you surely must know, 2009 's theme for Vacation Bible School is 'Studio GO! Game Show!'

We're looking for volunteers AND participants since you're guaranteed to have a ball, run, don't walk to sign up on the sheet located in Fellowship Hall! If interested, please contact any Christian Education Committee Member or Debbie Dolfi in person, by phone at 330.405.6916, or via e-mail at deborah_dolfi@yahoo.com. Volunteers are needed for the following: A Leader, Teachers; Snack Preparation/Kitchen Help; Crafts; Science Projects; Music, Games; Activities; Mission; and Decorating. For registration, please see the registration blank in the Tower.

Fashion Thru The Years



You are invited to a **Fashion Show and Spring Tea** on Sunday, May 17 at 2:00 p.m. at the church. There will be a tea after the fashion show. Seating is limited, so gather your Moms, Daughters, Grandmothers, Granddaughters, Aunts, Cousins, Friends and Neighbors to join us for a delightful afternoon of memories, friendship, fun and tasty treats! Tickets are \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children 12 and under. Tickets available during Coffee Hour or Call Liz Murch (330-425-8393) or the Church Office(330-425-2181) for Reservations.

Save these dates on your calendar. More details will be in the Tower next month and also in the Sunday Bulletins:

Sunday, June 7 - Christian Ed Sunday and All Church Picnic. The picnic will be at the Park in the small pavilion this year. There will be a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall for what you wish to bring. Drinks, meat, buns, will be provided.

Friday, July 17 - Church Night for the Akron Aeros game. Fireworks following the game. There are only 14 tickets left. The sign up sheet is in Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$7.00 each and need to be paid for by June 6. Any questions, please see Gayle Davet.

Congratulations!

Crystal Poulson and Dustin Lau were united in holy matrimony on April 4, 2009. Crystal currently works at the Dairy Queen in Twinsburg.

C. C. Halloran and Kevin Artl were united in holy matrimony on April 25, 2009. C. C. and Kevin joined the church on February 15, 2009. Be sure to offer your congratulations when you see them.

We celebrate the baptism of Eleanore Kang Hai Holzwarth, daughter of Tom and Karen Holzwarth, sister of Mark and Victoria Holzwarth. She was baptized on Sunday, March 29, 2009 during the worship service. Congratulations to Eleanore and all of her family.

ATTENDANCE

Worship Service

Mar. 29 th		104
Apr. 5 th	Palm Sunday	134
Apr. 9 th	Maundy Thursday	53
Apr. 10 th	Good Friday	52
Apr. 12 th	Sonrise Service	91
Apr. 12 th	Easter	151
Apr. 19 th		83

Women's Fellowship Luncheon
and meeting

Thursday, May 7, 2009

12:00 Noon Pot Luck Luncheon

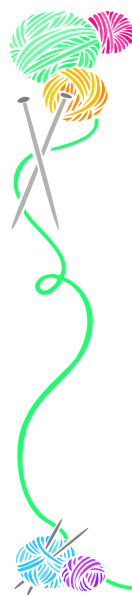
Bring food to share and table service

Don't forget about the Spring Fashion Show to be held on May 17, 2009.

Fund Raiser!



There will be a Pancake Breakfast held at the church on Saturday May 16, 2009 from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm. Tickets are \$5.00 for adults; Children 10 & under free w/ paying adult. All net proceeds from the Pancake Breakfast will go to support the Susan G. Komen for the Cure and the National Philanthropic Trust Breast Cancer Fund. Tickets are available at the door.



Knitwitters Contributions 1st Quarter 2009 Metro Health NICU

109 Blankets
111 Hats
27 Pairs of Booties
6 Sweaters



The following letter was received from Lelegam Oke, caregiver and friend of Azibanato by Lucille Fiorelli. This was received on March 26, 2009 and is an update on his progress.

Dear Lucille,

And again another impressive mail from you! I've indeed realized the love you and others have for Azibanato. Your prayers were a ballistic missile to the strong hold of illness that engulfed Azi. I'm reminded of James 5:15 that . . . "The prayers of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise him (Azibanato) up." Mr. Azibanato is up! He can now walk on his own, talk and even use his hands partially. I believe in our Lord so strongly that you would soon hear from him. He is also praying for you people for your great works. He obliged that I thank you very well for informing Laura and Mike. They also wrote and enclosed love for him. But we must thank God for his grace because there are others I know who have spent thousands but have remained speechless and immobile for years and only be fed by their wards. In fact, my testimony is church last Sunday motivated many to put their trust in the Lord. Lucille, Proverbs 3:5 and Psalm 125:1 said it all.

Azi expresses his feelings for the extreme weather conditions people over there have to cope. We pray it should not be too serious to cause havoc. Here, we at the tropics where the weather is scorching. God is wonderful.

I'm encouraged by your age to serve God with much dedication. There is no retirement in serving God so long as He hasn't retired our lives. I thank you and others for the prayers and love. God bless you all.

With love,
Lelegam Oke

The college people nicknamed Azibanato "America".

If you would like to write to Azibanato or send him a card, his address is:

Mr. Azibanato C. Emiete & Lelegam Oke
Bayelsa College of Arts & Science
Dept of Mass Communication
Bayelsa State, Nigeria
West Africa



You won't believe what I have to tell you. We now not only have a Church Mouse but we also have a Church Moose. I haven't seen him but I have heard him. And what a noise he makes. You'll have to ask Dan about the whole situation. I think he knows all about it. It's nice to have another resident in the church to keep me company at night.

I think the moose is here because he picked up one of those welcome bags out in the Narthex that Karen made. Maybe he thought the butterfly was real. I also think he like the candy bar inside. I'm sure the visitors to the church liked the bags, too.

Easter is always one of my favorite seasons of the year. It is always so busy in my church. The red, yellow and blue balloons on Easter morning were beautiful. I got a blue one but when I tried to hang on to it, I got picked up into the air. What fun. Did you see me hanging up near the ceiling? I was very impressed to see the young people take over the service. They are so talented. I especially enjoyed the duet the Tara and Kayla performed. I was in the air so I couldn't clap at the end. But it was really good.

Then, of course, one of my favorite evenings is always the Souper Supper. This month I had Bob H's potato soup. I like it so much I went back for more, but it was gone. Bob will you make it again, please? Just a little bowl will do.

Joel, after this watch out what prop you use for the children's sermon. I was inside that plastic water bottle. You shook me up a bit. But I did have a front row seat.

Cheerio!!!

May Friendship Day



Join the Church Women United for May Friendship Day on Friday, May 1 at the Good Shepard Church on Shepard Road in Macedonia Ohio.

Gathering begins at 11:00 a.m. followed with a salad luncheon at Noon. Please bring a salad for 6—8 people and a friend to share. Child care is available. The theme this year is "Building on our Stories". If you have any questions, please see Marge Roberts or Peggy Davis-Griffin.

From Lucille Fiorelli:

There is a simple cross in Burma in memory of the fallen British soldiers who fought there in WW II. It reads:

When you go home
Tell them of us and say
For your tomorrow
We gave our today.

We too, have a tomorrow because others gave their everything.

Thought to live by:

To give anything less than your best is to sacrifice the gift. Chinese fortune cookie

Recently the Sojourner Church School class was asked the questions, "If you had only one day to live what would you tell those you loved?"

These are their feelings:

I would like you to live your lives to the fullest, to love your family members and care for each other. Always respect yourself and be patient with others.

Follow your dreams. Work hard to achieve your goals. Nothing worthwhile is gained by being lazy and doing nothing.

Be baptized, take Holy Communion, bring your family to church to worship Jesus and ask for your sins to be forgiven.

Live in a way each day that the world is a better place because you have lived.

I love you all. My life has been joyful and meaningful. I owe it all to you. You have given me inspiration and the opportunity of living fully.

Take time to enjoy life and make others happier. Appreciate the small things. Do something to make the world a better place.

I believe all of these suggestions are noteworthy and important enough to be shared.

**Lockup Trustee for the
month of May -
Terri Bissell**



TIS' THE SEASON...

VOLUME 55
ISSUE 5
THE TOWER

With the arrival of May, it is time to clean up and plant the church flower beds and trim the shrubs. The church has received a donation toward the purchase of flowers in memory of Alma Mercer and Barbara Roach. Women's Fellowship, as in recent years, has generously approved money for the purchase of flowers and mulch. Any help that can be given will be greatly appreciated. Please let the church office know if you are able to help in any way. Weather permitting, the goal is to have the front planting done for Memorial Day. Thank you.

CONFIRMATION

Six youth have been participating in the confirmation class this year and each has been assigned an adult mentor. They are Justin Doe-mentor: Ken Roddie, Robert Hoyt-mentor: Rich Bissell, Tara Schilling-mentor: Karen Holzwarth, Joey Schulz-mentor: Joel Pietrantozzi, Doug Verbic-mentor: Will Adams, Vivian Weiss-mentor: Judy Richner.

On May 17, the confirmands will offer the sermon in the form of their faith statements. Confirmation will happen on Pentecost Sunday, May 31.

Summer Music

Can you sing? Play an instrument? Play the piano? If so, your services are needed for the Summer Music. The summer schedule runs from June 14 through Labor Day, September 6. There will soon be up sheet on the bulletin board in the Choir Room. If you need help finding music, or have any questions, please see Chrissy Sterling.

Member News

Happy Birthday to:

Jessie Prentice

05/02/09

Cassie Pietrantozzi

05/02/09

Amanda Murphey

05/08/09

Madeline Maynard

05/08/09

Lauren Bissell

05/11/09

Katie Smeallie

05/12/09

Melissa Felixson

05/13/09

Jennifer Prentice

05/13/09

Marian Murphy

05/15/09

Mark Miller

05/19/09

Katie Prentice

05/19/09

Joey Schultz

05/20/09

Ken E. Prentice

05/29/09

Kelly Piaser

05/31/09



In Remembrance of -

BARBARA ANNE ROACH (nee Moyer), 83, of Twinsburg. Beloved wife of the late Lawrence; loving mother of Leslie Anne (Brian) Bowers, and Dr. Laurel Elizabeth (Dr. Joseph Armao, MD) Armao, MD; dearest grandmother of Lyndsey Anne Bowers, Lacey Suzanne Bowers, Erin Elizabeth Armao, Anna Jordan Armao and Luke Joseph Armao. She died Saturday, March 28, 2009. A Memorial Service was held on Monday, March 30, at Johnson Romito Funeral Home.

A Memorial Service was held at the church on Saturday, April 18 for **James Henry Christman**, formerly of Silver Lake, Ohio. He and his first wife were married here by Rev. Lippett in 1945. He had passed away on February 8, 2009, in Tampa, Florida.

Thank You!

To Rev. Kay, Kathy and my church friends, Thank you all for your concern for me, your acts of kindness, prayers and cards. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated.

Paul Munn

Celebrating

An Anniversary This Month

Kevin, Sr. & Vera Murphy, 5/4/1996

Steve & Kathy Lessman, 05/10/1986

Tony & Veronica Roberson, 5/16/1981

Bob & Gayle Davet, 5/22/1982

Aaron & Lisa Mayer, 05/26/2002

Please remember to fill out the membership update form so we can update our records. It is available from the office or on the Church website.

We are blessed to have Ken Roddie in our church family. I had an electrical short in my home. I called Ken. For days he traced all wiring from the fuse box to the problem. Yes, he found it. His daughter, Katherine, helped him one day. Bless her. Now I can sleep feeling safe once again. Sincere thank you, Ken.

Millie Frieling and family

May Schedules

Servers—May 2009

Karen Powell	Dave Schilling
Aaron Mayer	Lynn Schmidt
Diane Powell	
Ken Prentice - Bread	
Judy Turk - Greeters	
Rich Bissell - Lay Readers	

Communion will be
Sunday, May 3rd this month

Acolyte Schedule - May 2009

May 3— **Anthony Pietrantozzi**
Kevin Powell

May 10—**Melissa Schilling**
Kayla Bensie

May 17—**Sophie Keith**
Seth Richner

May 24—**Bradley Verbic**
Brianna Pratt

May 31—

Lay Reader's Schedule—May 2009

May 3— Dan Richner
May 10—Kayla Bensie
May 17—Rick Sheehan
May 24—Vivan Weiss
May 31—Phil Weiss

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.

Children's Sermon Schedule—May 2009

May 3— Joel Pietrantozzi
May 10—Gayle Davet
May 17—Tom Holzwarth
May 24—Terri Bissell
May 31—Ariel Bissell

If you are unable to serve as Lay Reader, Children's Sermon, or Acolyte on your assigned week, please find a replacement and notify the church office of the change. Thank you!

Flower Schedule—May 2009

May 3—
May 10—Steve & Kathy Lessman
May 17—
May 24—
May 31—

Coffee Hour Schedule—May 2009

May 3—
May 10—
May 17—Benevolence Committee
May 24—
May 31—

There are dates open for flowers and Coffee Hour. The sheets are posted downstairs in Fellowship Hall. Remember, flowers are now \$25.00. Please pay for them when you sign up. Make the check payable to "Women's Fellowship". You may put the check in the offering plate, or drop it off at the office. There are still people who have not paid for flowers from January—April. If you aren't sure, please check with the office.

Tulips are giving up their blossoms, trees and bushes are budding, farmers are heading to their fields, it's May in Ohio. I can't think of May without thinking of my folks. Most of you never met Fran and Janet, but you're about to.

Mom and Dad were married on May 16, 1945. They had gone out once, just one time, before they wed. Soon after that first date Dad went to the South Pacific to help make the world safe for democracy, and Mom stayed in high school. Dad graduated from Twinsburg High School, and Mom from Solon. It was a great rivalry even then. There were twelve in Dad's class, Mom was valedictorian of her fifteen person class. Solon was a bigger town.

They were introduced by a mutual friend, Joe Ennemoser, who lived in Glenwillow. Joe was the only person on the planet who ever smoked in our barn. Dad just couldn't bring himself to chastise Joe for anything, because without Joe.....

By her own admission Mom didn't think much of Dad at that first date. He compared her beauty to that of Dolly. She was offended that he would compare her to a former girlfriend until she learned that Dolly was his horse. Fran clearly wasn't doing himself any favors. Then Dad went to war, and girls at home wrote to men in the service. Three years of letters later Dad came home.

We were told there was a picnic along the banks of Tinker's Creek. Dad was telling Mom how beautiful the South Pacific was and how he'd like to return under more accommodating circumstances. Mom said she thought that was a great idea, as long as she was going along for the trip.

Sadly, they never got back to the South Pacific, but they traveled side by side for fifty one years, across this country that they both loved and even to Canada and the Caribbean. They raised four children with an iron fist of discipline, clothed in a velvet glove of love.

Dad taught us about horses, tractors, dirt, and all that can come from them. Mom taught us to be kind and tolerant of those less privileged, read books, write about things we know, and honor our history. They both taught us to speak our minds, stand up for what we believe, and have our own opinions.

We learned most of these lessons either at home, or in the back of a Rambler station wagon somewhere east or west of the Mississippi. But we also learned them in the same building where we gather for worship and meetings today. I remember Martha Weaver, Ruby Doan, and Mabel Culhan. My kids remember Mary Lou Sheller, Gayle Davet, and Dick Sunderland. The names are different but the message and the mission are the same.

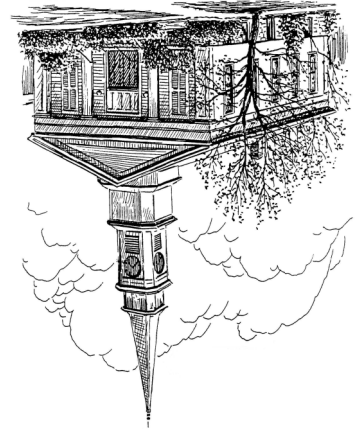
We have written a great history here, and we have a great deal of history yet to write. I am encouraged every time I walk through the door, or talk to one of you. We are seeing new faces almost every week, and they are finding a warm welcome, and hopefully a comfortable home. After all, one of the best things about families is that they grow and change.

On this last weekend in April, the Adams family will do exactly that. Tom and Whitney will be married on Saturday at her home church in Garrettsville. A healthy portion of Fran and Janet's offspring will gather to celebrate, and welcome Whitney into the fold. Thank you for all your support and prayers for all of us, and especially the kids.

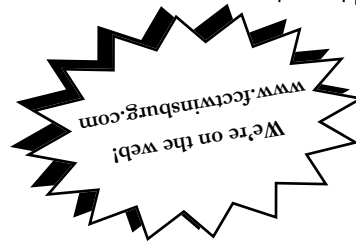
God's love to you, clousseau



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.