



“Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.” II Corinthians 5: 17

It is summer and I want to play. One definition of play “is a heightened form of consciousness.” Music, art, drama, creative movement, song or hymn writing, playing a game, sculpting, cooking, sitting and meditating can be forms of play that allow us to use our imagination and creativity to the glory of God.

Summer can be a time to slow down, observe nature and people, bask in wonder that comes from the scent of a rose, or feeling the smoothness of a stone at the beach, or somersaulting in the grass with a friend. Consider that God is still speaking through the seasons of the year. Summer invites us to enter God’s new creation which has begun with the coming of Christ. So then, come, enter God’s recreation (**re-creation**) now! Don’t wait! It has been called the “Ultimate in Play!” One of the best opportunities for re-creation is found in worship on Sunday mornings. Sabbath is always about re-creation. During the summer, **Sunday morning worship is at 8:30 and again at 10:00.**

When we engage in this ultimate play, we are free to see old things in fresh ways, discover new things, share life resources with compassion, celebrate God’s love and mercy with a passion, and play like our life depended on it!

The following are some old and new ways for participating in re-creation, enjoying the summer whether alone or with family and friends, or making new friends.

**IDEA JAR** (variation on the “Job Jar”) – Make a list of all the things you like to do, or the things you would like to learn more about. Pay attention to your natural curiosity which may stimulate a project or an activity. Cut the list into strips that can be folded and placed in a jar, can, or other container (decorate it if you are inspired). When you are looking for something to do, pull out a strip from your “idea jar.” Ask others who come to your house this summer, to contribute ideas to your jar—things they enjoy doing or would like to do with you. You might add some of the following to your jar.

**BLOW BUBBLES** – Two Bubble Recipes

Mix equal parts of JOY regular dish soap, (not the anti-bacterial) with water. Add a small amount of glycerin which gives some stability to the bubble and color. The mixture is best when it has some time to “set” (4 hours is helpful).

Continued on next page

Another recipe: 6 cups of water; 2 cups of Joy dish soap; and  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup of corn syrup. Mix 4 hours ahead of when it will be used. Wands can be made from coat hangers, florist wire, plastic ribbon spools, etc. Use your imagination!

REACH OUT – Remember your friend or cousin, aunt, or uncle whom you haven't seen or talked with for a long time. Make and send a card with a "hello" note or "thinking of you" message.

JUMP AT THE MOON – Here's a silly one: On the night of the full moon, gather neighbors in the backyard for moon jumping. Jump over obstacles you have created. Croquet wickets work. Or jump rope. Or see who can jump the highest! If you miss the full moon, celebrate the NEW moon.

SHARE – For a whole day, share everything with a friend or sibling—from socks to lunch to your most innermost secret.

A STARGAZING PICNIC – Pack some blankets, snacks, book about constellations, flashlight, and insect repellent. Find a clear view of the sky whether in your backyard or at a park. Look for constellations, swap stories, dream together...create stories each person adding a sentence at a time.

The biblical verse that began these thoughts, has been a comfort, inspiration and direction for ministry in my life. God's new creation, begun in Jesus Christ, sparks creation, hope, imagination and play in all of us no matter what our age. After all, we are made in the image of God.

Some additional biblical passages may contribute to your play and heighten your awareness of creation:

Psalms 8, 19, 104, 105, 135, 137, 148, 149, 150; Genesis 1: 1-2:4; and 2: 4-24 (two different creation stories); Genesis 15 (the creation of a people); John 1: 1-18

Blessings,  
Kay Krejci

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### **Speaking of PLAY.....WORSHIP and WIGGLES**

The presence of children in worship, whatever the age, is a gift to the family of faith. The Christian Education Committee has created some child-welcoming "wobble baskets" for younger and older children attending the 10:00 a.m. worship. Younger children and their parents may find the age appropriate basket at the rocking chair entrance to the sanctuary. Older children, will find their basket in the narthex, before entering the sanctuary.

## **DONATIONS OF FINGER FOODS NEEDED**

**SUMMER COFFEE HOURS** - Many people enjoy the time of fellowship following Sunday morning worship. Since it's a busy time for people to sign up and bake for coffee hour, donations of goodies (home baked or bought), ice tea and punch are appreciated. These can be left in the refrigerator—be sure and note that they are for coffee hour.

**TWINS DAY PARADE HOSPITALITY TABLE** – A reminder that Women's Fellowship will be hosting a hospitality table in front of the church on the morning of the August 7 Twins Day parade. Parade visitors last year were very grateful for the FREE bottles of water, coffee, and finger foods available to them. Fellowship is buying the water, Rick Sheehan (Solstice Coffee) is donating the coffee, and YOU can be part of this ministry by furnishing some baked goods. To be sure there is enough to serve, a sign up sheet for donations will be posted in Fellowship Hall—again, both home-made and store bought items will be appreciated by the guests to Twins Day.

**EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE CENTER**--The Center is very grateful for the faithfulness of First Congregational Church with the ongoing donations of non-perishable food items. As you go grocery shopping, please remember the Center as you take advantage of sales. All non-perishable food items are welcomed but with children at home during the summer, there is an increased need for quick meals, cereal, and peanut butter and jelly. Donated items may be left in the narthex or placed in the collection box located near the entrance to the church kitchen.

**MONETARY GIFTS FOR DISASTER RELIEF** – A reminder for those who didn't see the reminder in the church worship folder following the recent tornadoes in Ohio that church friends/members may make donations for disaster relief throughout the year by noting so on their giving envelope. If desired, a specific channel/agency can be requested (i.e. Church World Service, American Red Cross, etc) or the Benevolence Committee will determine where the need is greatest at the time the gift is made.

## **FROM THE CHURCH LIBRARY...**

Always a welcome addition to the church library are donations of inspiring books that would be meaningful to the church family. There are labels available if one wants to donate a book in memory or honor of someone. A newly donated book is "*Have A Little Faith.*" This is a true story that parallels the lives of two persons of very different backgrounds who had a great influence on the author, Mitch Albom. This book will be featured on the book cart and would be enjoyed both by young adults and adults—a quick, inspiring read on a warm summer day.

## ***Seekers Prayer Shawl Ministry***

This ministry will continue to meet throughout the summer on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. and 4<sup>th</sup>. Mondays from 7 to 8 p.m. (with the exception on VBS Week July 26) and invite anyone to join in this time of fellowship and prayer. Some in the group are crocheting scarves for this year's high school male graduates and shawls for the female graduates. As always, if you know of someone who would appreciate the comfort of a shawl, just let the office or Rev. Kay know.

# VBS Info

## ONE GOD - ONE PLANET

VBS: July 26-30 from 6-8:30pm

NAME:
PHONE:
E-MAIL:

Please fill out as you would be available to help for VBS and drop in the collection plate or at the office.

	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.
Teaching				
Activities/Games				
Crafts				
Music				

### 2010-2011 Twinsburg High School Drill Team and Majorette Spaghetti Dinner

**When: Saturday July 24, 2010**

**Where: Serving from 4:00pm -7:00pm in Fellowship Hall**

**Adult Tickets = \$8.00 Child Tickets (12 and under) = \$4.00**

**Children 3 and under = Free**

**Please make checks made out to the  
Twinsburg Band Boosters**

**Call or see Lisa Davet for a ticket.**

**(330)425-7313**



If you haven't signed up for Akron Aeros tickets, please do so by June 30. The sign up sheet is in Fellowship Hall. If you can't get to the sign up sheet, please email Gayle Davet at

[gayled78@roadrunner.com](mailto:gayled78@roadrunner.com)

There are approximately 20 tickets still available. The cost of the tickets is \$7.00 each and should be paid to Gayle Davet. Any questions, please contact Gayle.



For the month of July the Stewardship Committee reflects on freedom.

As a covenant people we are given freedom, as individuals and communities, to choose life or death, blessings or curses. Tough decisions and persistent effort are required of those who seek lives that are whole and holy. We must learn the practice of saying no to that which crowds God out and yes to a way of life that makes space for God. Jesus calls us from certain behaviors, but always offers an alternative: “Come, follow.” A life affirming “yes” is necessary to making an effective “no.”

Responsible exercise of freedom requires us to participate in generating good for all. We participate in making fundamental decisions regarding our national priorities, values and commitments, and how they will be expressed in public policy. We cannot ignore economic, social, and ecological realities that have led to greater abundance for some and scarcity for many others. We must learn to discern, choose and act in ways that bless all God’s people.

This month, we are preparing for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, or our Independence Day. Many of us will sit and gather with friends and family, perhaps over a little BBQ and watch fireworks. But sometimes like our Christmas Holiday, we forget to reflect on what Independence Day really stands for and why we have it. On July 4, 1776, we claimed our independence from Britain and Democracy was born. Our ancestors fought for our independence. I think that sometimes we forget to remember there are people who came before us and paid an ultimate sacrifice. Not just with their life, but with being away from family, friends and the everyday comforts of home and Church.

There have been people who have come after our first group of patriots that have protected and defended our rights to freedom in World War I, World War II, The Cold War, The Korean War, The Viet Nam War, The Iraq War, The Gulf War, Somalia, Kosovo, Bosnia and Afghanistan. These people have provided us with the freedom to do as we choose, including the right to our religion. This Independence Day, let us take the time to thank God and these people who provided us with the opportunity to worship God.

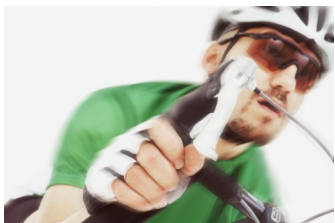
Freedom has its life in the hearts, the actions, the spirit of men and so it must be daily earned and refreshed - else like a flower cut from its life-giving roots, it will wither and die. -Dwight D. Eisenhower

Submitted by Kevin Artl, Stewardship Committee



**Scrap Booking**  
**Friday, July 16**  
 6:00 p.m.—midnight  
 in the Fellowship Hall

Don't forget to bring your pennies! Women's Fellowship will continue to collect the pennies throughout the summer. They will be used to purchase gift certificates for the Yankee Bazaar.



On August 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> I will be doing my annual 75 mile per day bicycle ride. This ride is from the Polaris Career Center in Middleburg Heights, (next to Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds) on Saturday, to Sandusky High School, near the entrance to Cedar Point and back on Sunday for the two day, 150 mile event. Pedal to the Point is the National Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society major fundraiser. Over 2,000 bicyclists participate in this annual event over the two days. Anyone wishing additional information on the event can login to the website: [bikeoha.nationalmssociety.org](http://bikeoha.nationalmssociety.org)

The goal of this event is to raise funds to fight the unpredictable effects and hopefully find a cure for this disabling disease. MS is a prime of life disease mainly striking people between the ages of 20 and 50.

This year, as in the past my ride is dedicated to John Towslee in particular and any of our friends and neighbors afflicted with MS. John still assures me that he endorses the MS Society's efforts for this event and has always been a loyal sponsor of my ride.

This year I will have more company than before. This year my nephews, Larry & Doug Verbic, of our church family, will again ride plus a newcomer, daughter Terri Bissell is planning to do her first ride. If possible, I hope to help them in meeting our required goals. If you would prefer sponsoring any one of us in particular please just note it on your check.

I realize that there seems to be unending requests such as this, all for very worthwhile causes, but if anyone is willing to help by being one of the sponsors for our ride it will be greatly appreciated. Any amount would be very helpful. Please make your tax deductible checks payable directly to National MS Society. You can give your checks to Terri, Larry, Doug, Mary Lou or myself.

**In closing I want to sincerely thank everyone for your loyal support both monetarily and spiritually for all my past years rides.**

**Respectfully,**

**Dick Sheller**

## Happy Birthday to:

Austin Roberts

07/01/10

Brad Verbic

07/03/10

Carol Doe

07/03/10

Al McCann

07/04/10

Karen Powell

07/04/10

Karen Conway

07/07/10

Troy Dolfi

07/07/10

Todd Maynard

07/08/10

Adeline Mayer

07/12/10

Russ Griffin

07/14/10

Brad Merritt

07/15/10

Emily Schmidt

07/16/10

Erin Hooper

07/17/10

Sara Lessman

07/18/10

Dorothy Bascombe

07/19/10

Corrine McCann

07/20/10

Dave Murch

07/22/10

Ron Hegedish

07/23/10

Betty Eshelman

07/24/10

Tim Bencie

07/24/10

Louise Jackson

07/27/10

Maggie Chernick

07/28/10

Elsie Peel

07/29/10

Andrew Prentice

07/30/10

Elaine Bissell

07/31/10



## Happy Anniversary to:

Tom & Nichole Wunderle

07/01/2006

Phil & Jane Weiss

07/08/1989

Nicholas & Carol Latonia

07/08/1995

Rick & Gail Herrilko

07/10/1971

Roger & Carol Zenisek

07/18/1959

Steve & Jane Dan

07/31/1982



If we missed your birthday or anniversary, please let the church office know so we can update our records and celebrate with you.

## ATTENDANCE

	Sunday School	Worship Service
May 30 <sup>th</sup>	34	91
June 6 <sup>th</sup>	37	96
June 13 <sup>th</sup>	None	6 / 54
June 20 <sup>th</sup>	None	

**Lockup Trustee for the  
month of July -  
Dave Murch**

# July Schedules

## Servers—July 2010

Rick Herrilko      Lynn Schmidt  
 Rich Bissell      Judy Turk  
 Ken Prentice - Bread

**Communion will be  
 Sunday, July 4th this month**

## Acolyte Schedule - July 2010

July 4— **Walter Sterling**  
                  David Schilling  
 July 11—**Will Sheehan**  
                  Brianna Pratt  
 July 18—**Seth Richner**  
                  Tori Holzwarth  
 July 25—**Caitlin Sheehan**  
                  Will Sheehan

## Lay Reader's Schedule—July 2010

July 4— Dottie Oliver  
 July 11—Phil Weiss  
 July 18—Rick Sheehan  
 July 25—Chrissy Sterling

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 July 2010

July 4— Will Adams  
 July 11—Change Sunday  
 July 18—Gayle Davet  
 July 25—Tom Holzwarth

***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—July 2010

July 4—  
 July 11— Lessman Family  
 July 18— Paul Munn  
 July 25—

## Coffee Hour Schedule—July 2010

July 4— **No one is signed up**  
 July 11— **for Coffee Hour for**  
 July 18— **July - Please sign up if**  
 July 25— **you can help!**

## Summer Music Schedule - July 2010

July 4—  
 July 11—  
 July 18— Tom & Mark Holzwarth  
 July 25— Ashley Bissell

## Welcomers Schedule - July 2010

July 4— Rich Bissell & Bonnie Williams  
 July 11—Steve & Carol Doe  
 July 18—Betty McKnight & Doris Turnbull  
 July 25—Dave & Diane Powell

Happy Summer!

As I write to you all this month, we are in the week of summer solstice, the longest days of the year. In these times with many disturbing things happening that we see or read about in the news daily, the constant and predictable ebb and flow of nature and the cycle of seasons remain a comfort. As much as I enjoy the long days of sunlight, we know flip side to the good news is the march towards short days (and dare I say winter?) begins again with the solstice. The one constant factor through all of the seasons we have the blessing of the constant presence of God, our Creator and Sustainer.

But let's focus on the pleasures of summer- picnics, frequent excuses for ice cream (my favorite food, thank you very much), lightning bugs, lots of flowers and lush green, and fresh local produce. Summer is a time for growth. I'd like to think our church is also heading into its own summertime. There are some exciting things happening. Take time to look at the new TV in the library that gives those people who cannot, or choose not to come to the sanctuary for the worship service a huge boost in how well they can see and hear the service. It is set-up with a new DVD player to give us more options in programming as well. Many thanks to the Stewardship for their fundraising and the additional donors that made this possible. Christian Education is planning an exciting VBS program this program with a "green" theme they are creating and writing themselves (special thanks to Megan Barr and Lisa Mayer for their work). Women's Fellowship is purchasing new furniture for Fellowship Hall to upgrade our ability to host food functions. Trustees are working on alternatives to improve accessibility into the front of the church in the ongoing effort to increase our overall accessibility. These are just a few of the special things happening in our church's summer. We can also take comfort in some of the traditional summer activities of our church- softball games, the picnic, ice cream social, Akron Aero's game night. Seventeen of our youth will be growing spiritually this year at Camp Christian, thanks to the exceptional support of this church.

So sit back with your favorite cold drink of choice, take time to enjoy the benefits of summer, soak in the Sunshine that brings warmth from God through all the seasons and appreciate the great things that are happening in your church, our church.

Genesis 8:22 (NIV) "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."

Faithfully yours,  
Terri

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**Come worship with us  
and bring a friend!  
Worship Service 8:30 a.m.  
and 10:00 a.m.**

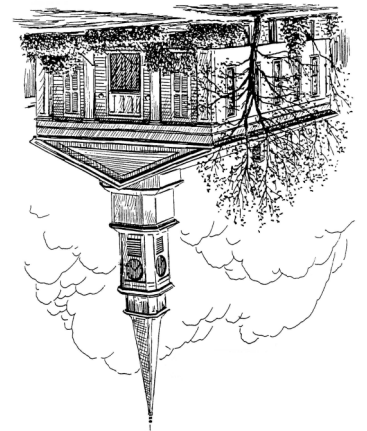
**Tower Submissions**

Articles for the *Tower* may be e-mailed directly to the church at [firstcongregational.church@windstream.net](mailto: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.

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*On the square in Twinsburg  
since 1848*



**Dated Material—  
Please Rush!**



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