



ECHO

July-Aug.
2013

From the Pastor

Summer is moving a little too quickly for me! I remember a time, not too long ago, when summers were lazy, slow, and relaxed. Time was spent sitting on the front porch sipping lemonade and listening to the cicadas in the pine trees. Long walks in the morning as the dew burned off, and easy naps in the afternoon were the order of the day.

But, alas, like everyone else I know, I have allowed myself, or perhaps chosen, to be consumed with busy-ness.

Each day is filled with activities, (mostly good), chores, deadlines, and endless “taxi service” duties for the kids. There is always some place to be, some thing to be done.

That is one of the gifts of Sunday morning worship. We are offered a time each week to slow down, engage in

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Articles for Sept-Oct. will be due August 25

Put articles in the Echo box at church or email to me Eileen Fletcher.

Email address: efletchermcnamara@fuse.net

meaningful, friendly talk, and breathe in the Spirit of God in the midst of the gathered community.

What a blessing it is to be able to stop the hustle and bustle. What a gift it is to be able to pause and pray. What grace we find in the opportunity to join our voices together to sing the hymns and songs of our faith.

I know that summer is a time for vacations and travel... I look forward to my own! But it is also a time to renew our spirits for the coming winter, and reignite the flames of our faith, to carry us through another year.

Come and relax and worship with us on Sunday mornings...

Pastor Mark

Worship Team News

The Summer Sermon Series will be based on the book "A New Kind of Christian" by Brian McLaren. Copies of the book are available for \$14.99 at any local book store or on line. After worship lunch book discussions will be held at local restaurants. Please join us!

Our Wider Church

June 28 – July 2 our United Church of Christ will gather for General Synod 29 in Long Beach California. This bi-ennial meeting is an important “family reunion” for our church. Delegates and visitors from across America and around the world come together to seek God’s guidance and will for the life of our denomination, and to offer opportunities for the local congregations of the UCC to engage in deeper dialogue and prayer about issues that shape our world and our faith.

Pastor Mark will represent FSJ, SONKA, and the Ohio Conference as a delegate this year, and will join with the wider church in worship, reflection, debate, and proclamation.

You can follow the course of Synod at <http://www.ucc.org/synod/>.

On the UCC website you will find a detailed list of the resolutions and issues Synod will address, and daily updates, videos, and reflection of the work being done.

Our covenant as a UCC congregation connects us to the work of General Synod, and ministries of every UCC congregation across the country. Stay connected this week... and see if you can spot Pastor Mark in any of the photos!



Thank You

Dear First St. John

Thank you so much for the scholarship for my spring semester of college. It means so much to me and has helped me to become closer to achieving my goal of graduating from the University of Cincinnati Lindner College of Business. Again I really appreciate everything you have done to help me.

Thank You

Alexandra Vizedom

Friends of First St. John

Thank you so much for thinking of me at graduation! Your prayers, love and support have been amazing and I will be grateful for it during the years to come.

Megan Sullivan

Thanks to all that supported and helped with the Strawberry Festival. The money made is going to the Davidson Baptist Church Youth Group in Hazard, Kentucky for their Mission Trip to Costa Rica.

July Prayer Circle

Eloise Andrews
Jim Arnold
Ada Mae Begley
Mel Brown
Payton Cauchran
Linda Chalk
Merle DePew
Norma Durr
Clay Frink
Myron Gilley
Imogene Goos
Barbara Harris
Don Hartley
Fanny Murphy
Kyle Phelps
Diane Johnson
Martha Herold
Vicki Howard
Marilyn Jeffers
Alex Kip

Kitty
Tamara Kirkwood
& Twins
Jackie McKinney
Dee Dee Martin
Gilda Moore
Donald Mull
Marion Reed
Gina Robertson
Jane
Joseph Selkirk
Bryan Selkirk
Fred Smith
Doug Stumpf
Dave Upchurch
Gartha Webb
Elaine Weiss
Richard Wesp
Patricia Young



U.S Armed
Forces &
Their
Families

The Families of

Jim O'Dell
Thelma Deitz
Joasphine Seifert
Ruth Kerby Sibert

Please leave a message for the prayer circle with Shirley. Include the following information: name of person, illness. Thanks, Shirley M. Lovely, 726-6223. Please check names carefully. Shirley .

If there are any names that need to be removed call Shirley Lovely at the number above.

Dayton Dragon's Reminder

For those that have tickets for the game we will see you at Fifth Third Field on Sunday, July 21st at 2:00PM.

Calendar for the months of July and August

July

Monday 8	6:00 Serve City – Wilson and Dalton
Saturday 13	6:00 Christmas in July fund raiser for Serve City-Redeemer Church
Sunday 14	9:20 Worship Team After worship – Just Friends
Sunday 21	8:45 Council 2:00 Dayton Dragons game
Monday 29	6:00 Community Meal

August

Sunday 11	9:20 Worship Team After worship – Just Friends
Monday 12	Serve City- Burnett-Bogan
Monday 26	Community Meal

Volunteering at Matthew 25!

What a Rewarding Feeling!

On June 11 a group went to Matthew 25 Ministries. After taking a tour of the facility, given some very interesting facts and over whelming figures of how many people and countries they help, we volunteered for a few hours. It was a very spiritual fulfilling experience.

We are planning to return at a future date. They have a variety of jobs (standing and sitting). Everyone is welcome to attend. Watch your weekly bulletin, Web site, Facebook or ECHO for more information on how we can HELP!!

Mission 4/1 Earth Update!

The official time for our concentration on earth care is over, but the efforts to engage congregations and people of faith in this important mission continue.

To date, the UCC reports that:

591,068 Hours of Earth Care have been reported!

130,671 Trees have been planted!

51,562 Advocacy Letters have been sent!

Praise God!

Community Dinner Menu

July	Chicken Casserole, Corn, Salad, Strawberry Shortcake
August	Baked Spaghetti, Salad, Garlic Bread, Applesauce
September	Ham, Green Beans, Potatoes, Cornbread, Sugar Cookies
October	Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Bread, Cake
November	Breakfast Casserole, Biscuits, Fruit Salad

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Our Mission:
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To use our individual and congregational gifts, talents and resources to communicate the Good News of Jesus Christ, and to bring to all His word, His healing, His compassion and His forgiveness by being a warm accepting and

The Echo is a publication of First St. John

United Church of Christ

140 Ross Ave., Hamilton, OH 45013 513.863.0793

Worship Service: 10:00 a.m. Ballroom Second Floor

Fellowship Time: 9:15 a.m. - 9:50 a.m.

Web Page: fsjchurch.org Office Manager: Connie Wyatt

E-Mail firststjohn@fuse.net Thursday: 8:00 - 11:00 a.m.