

THE CHRISTIAN CONNECTION

The Good News from Parma Greece United Church of Christ

"No matter who you are, no matter where you are in life's journey, you are welcome at PGUCC"

February 2015

January Glow

January has arrived! Oh my! 2014 flew by like a shooting star. The church was active in so many areas: building repairs, sanctuary painting, banners, murals, BBQ's, holiday dinners, memorial services, holiday giving baskets, and missions. That effort represents hundreds of giving hours of care, love, and fun.

Our church always wears a smile and that makes PGUCC special. Therefore, while it is cold and snowing take a moment to reflect on the blessings of the year. Our community needs us to do it again in 2015. We enjoy working together and that provides a friendly place for visitors to take a pause and reflect on God's love. That is our mission.

One thing that is constant is that our world is changing rapidly. Large corporations in Rochester that have been here for decades, that invented many of the disruptive technologies of their time, found that the world accelerated away from them. Long range planning for the next 5 years is critical. The generation X, Y, and millennia have entirely new tools to communicate and to make contact. How relevant is Christ to them in their everyday life?

A small committee is discussing our mission for the next 5 years. There may be ideas, events, and directions that are different from the normal fare. I believe that exciting new ideas will work and fit into our mission strategy.

Just after Abe Lincoln was elected president, while entertaining dignitaries, a poor farmer women presented him with a pair of blue hand knitted socks for the trip to Washington. "I spun the yarn and knit them myself," she said. Well, Abe bent down and put the socks next to his lanky feet and exclaimed to the crowd, "I think she got my latitude and longitude just right!"

"A pessimist complains about the wind, an optimist expects the wind to change, and the realist adjusts the sails." William Arthur Ward.

So as we enter another year of service, let's kick up our heels and shout Hallelujah!

"Make a joyful noise shout to the Lord all you lands. Serve the Lord with gladness. Come before his presence with singing. Know that the Lord, He is God." Psalm 100

In Christ,
Roger



I recently received the newsletter from the Irondequoit UCC and would like to share with you what the Rev. Michael Dack, wrote to his congregation. I do this after consultation with him. The question he posed to his congregation when should you call your pastor? So moving beyond the usual "we know you're so busy" the answer is:

When someone you care about:

- gets sick,
- goes to the hospital,
- dies,
- has a baby,
- is depressed,
- feels guilty,
- loses a job,
- has faith questions,
- wants to talk,
- has a complaint,
- has a compliment,
- has a joy that can't wait to be shared,
- has a conflict in a relationship,
- needs to make a tough decision,
- has a problem with children,
- feels cut off from God,
- feels cut off from people,
- is concerned about a hurting friend,
- wonders what the church has to say about issues touching the world today.

You can add you own answers to the list and give me call--or just stop by the church and drop in, I am there from 9:30 to 12:30, Monday and Thursday; Tuesday, 11to 12:30 or by appointment and Wednesday by appointment. My door is always open.

Blessings,
Pastor Kurt



Ash Wednesday

There will be a soup and bread supper at 6 PM followed by service with Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes at 7.



The Hilton United Methodist Church will host the Lenten lunches again this year with the theme of "The Beatitudes and I am". Lunch is served Wednesdays during Lent (Feb. 25, March 4, March 11, March 18, and March 25), Noon to 1PM in the fellowship area and all are invited to attend to share food as well as faith.

Parma Greece will provide and serve lunch on February 25th

ARE YOU A PAMPERED CHEF? DO YOU WANT TO BE?

Pastor Kurt is longing for some new cooking pots for the church kitchen. We do like to keep him happy, so the Program Committee is planning a Pampered Chef Party. It has been 5 years since we did the last one, so there are surely things you need or gifts to be given! We will be able to order between FEBRUARY 1 AND 20, 2015. Grab a catalogue, take a look and place an order! Every order helps us accumulate hostess credit that can be redeemed for those pots. Or you can order a cooking pot specifically for the church.

We are working with Beth Ehret who helped us with the last party. She has provided us with catalogues and order forms. She has also set up a website for out of town folks to use if they wish.

<http://www.pamperedchef.com/pws/bethsbusiness/guest-landing/8903120141467>

We also need measuring cups and spoons, spatulas (all sizes) and a large ladle for the kitchen. If you cannot think of anything you need for yourself, consider ordering one of those items for the kitchen.

All orders will be shipped to the church for pick-up. Thanks for your help and enjoy!

P.S. Check out page 32 in the catalogue, you can buy a soup bowl and have a portion of the cost donated to FEEDING AMERICA. It's another way to help others as well as yourself.

2015 Parma Greece United Church of Christ Officers
(Approved at the Annual Meeting)

<u>Moderator</u>	Roger Leighton
<u>Church Clerk</u>	Susan Hayward
<u>Financial Secretary</u>	Jack Hayward
<u>Treasurer</u>	Pamela Dunning

Board of Christian
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Melody Fess
Sharon Listman
Samantha Luyk
Jessie Vaccarelli
Ann Weitzel

Board of Congregational
Concerns

Jean Becker (non-voting)
Donna Crowley
Susan Hayward
Jennifer Lake (non-voting)
Phil Lake
Shirley Snetsinger
Sue Wyant
Sue Varlan

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Dave Harris
Ruth Landry
Eric Romig
Dick Weitzel
Mike Zebulske

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Missions

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Beth Mueller
Sherry Romig
Phyllis Reed
Tina Zebulske

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Sue Leighton
Sheila McAuliff
Loron Oster
Mike Rialdi
Sharon Rialdi

Pastoral Relations
Committee

Susan Hayward
Sherry Romig
Ann Weitzel
Mike Zebulske

From The Boards of Parma Greece

The Board of Congregational Concerns



February Birthdays

- | | | |
|----------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| 2- Jordan Harris | 3- Donna Crowley & Mary Ozel & Jeanne Traugott | |
| 4- Tina Zebulske | 5- Pat Quinn | 7- Ken Blossom |
| 14- MaryBeth Lindsay | 19- Jennifer Lake | 20- John Oster, Sr. & Brynne Clark |

The Board of Christian Development



VALENTINES FOR VETERANS



*The **Sunday School class** will be celebrating **Valentine's Day** in an unique way – by honoring our **Military Veterans!** The students will be creating a small token of love and appreciation for each of the veterans that reside at **Hilton East Nursing Home**, as well as a few members of our own congregation who have served in the military. There are about 20 veterans at Hilton East, including one lady who served in World War II. We hope to plan a **field trip** to the facility in February, where we can present our Valentines to these folks and spend a little time getting to know them better. For more information please contact a member of the Board of Christian Development!*

John 15:13 – “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”



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What is God like?

Add or subtract the numbers.
 Use the code to fill in the letters.

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$\begin{array}{r} 4 \\ +1 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 1 \\ +1 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 2 \\ +2 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 3 \\ +4 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 1 \\ +4 \\ \hline \end{array}$
	$\begin{array}{r} 2 \\ +4 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 7 \\ -2 \\ \hline \end{array}$		

Code
 1= e 5= s
 2= h 6= u
 3= J 7= w
 4= o



We would like to congratulate Cadyn Bryan, Camryn Bryan, Dennis Duthoy, Jordan Harris, Carlina Osborne, Gianna Osborne and Scott Rudgers who received Bibles in a special ceremony during the worship service on January 4, 2015.

The Bibles match our current curriculum and we hope the children will treasure and use them regularly. The Bibles are a special gift for these young people who are our future. Again, we congratulate them.

The Board of Stewardship and Missions

Thank You! As printed in the annual reports, our congregation supported at least 15 missions throughout the year and participated in five special offerings. We contributed personal hygiene items for those in need in the Rochester area, school supplies for Church World Service and families in Hilton, underwear, and food for those in need in Hilton.

We supplied Thanksgiving and Christmas meals and socks for the guests at Salem Nutrition Center. Our congregation was one of a few that supplied gifts for every Christmas basket - from senior citizens who are alone to the families with many children. We brought in our empty cans and bottles, pennies, labels for education, and pop tabs. We walked (and supported those who walked in the CROP Walk), had our family pets (both alive and those who are no longer with us) blessed, prepared and served lunch to the guests at Salem. We are truly a "Mission Minded" congregation who cares about others. Thank you from all those who benefitted from your generosity and from this board for supporting our stewardship and mission programs.



With that in mind... watch for more information about a "Creation Day" when we will ask the whole congregation to participate in creating lap blankets. We would like to include a handmade item for each basket, so are planning to "create" at least 20 items for the families.

Hilton Parma Emergency Food Shelf

Thank you for all your donations in 2014. The numbers of families and seniors in need of help always reminds me how blessed we are and how generous a community Parma Greece is. In 2014, The Hilton Parma Emergency Food Shelf received 769 requests for assistance and 120 requests for Christmas Baskets. We helped feed a total of 2889 children, adults, and seniors in the Hilton community.

We are located in room 11B in the Hilton Community Center at 59 Henry Street and are open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from 9-11 and Thursday evenings from 6-7. Any checks can be made out to Hilton Parma Community Council of Churches (HPCCC) and can be mailed to P.O. Box 127 in Hilton.

What are our needs right now? PEANUT BUTTER!



Each week we purchase peanut butter as a protein choice for the clients - a favorite for the children, adults, and seniors. A challenge to the Parma Greece family - let's "adopt" that shelf and make certain it is never empty!

The Board of Worship and Spiritual Life

February 2015 Lectionary
<http://www.ucc.org/worship/samuel/>



February 1, 2015

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

February 8, 2015

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

February 15, 2015

Transfiguration
2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

February 22, 2015

First Sunday in Lent
Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

Church History

Cobblestones

The first chapel for the Christian Church of Parma & Greece was a cobblestone structure, built upon land donated by Deacon Isaac Chase. There is a beautiful mural in our Narthex of this chapel and Isaac Chase's home. Stones were readily available and used to create not just homes or schools or churches, but monuments. Our present church foundation is made of stone, most likely the only remnant of the original chapel which was torn down at the beginning of the last century and replaced with the wooden structure that is now our sanctuary. Do you know how unique this architecture is?

“Cobblestone architecture was developed in the northeastern United States, especially antebellum western New York State. Masons that built the Erie Canal during 1817-1825 started building cobblestone structures about the time the canal was finished. The stones used in the construction were a rounded shape deposited in the area by glaciers and cleared from the fields by early farmers, or brought from the shores of Lake Ontario. Historians estimate that more than 90 percent of cobblestone buildings can be found within 70–75 miles of Rochester, New York. The style was prominent between 1835 and about 1860; around 900 cobblestone buildings were constructed in New York before the Civil War. About 700 cobblestone homes remain in the Rochester area.” - Wikipedia

The Song of the Stone Wall – by Helen Keller

...I understand the triumph and the truth
Wrought into these walls of rugged stone.
They are a miracle of patient hands,
They are a victory of suffering, a paean of pain.
All pangs of death, all cries of birth,
Are in the mute, moss-covered stones;
In the deep gloom of their hearts there is a gleam
Of the primeval sun which looked upon them
When they were begotten.
So in the heart of man shines forever
A beam from the everlasting sun of God.
Unresponsive, rude are the stones;
Yet in them divine things lie concealed.....

As each stone has a handprint of its builder upon it, we each leave our own unique handprint on our church with our gifts of talent and treasure. And in each action of love and devotion, “a miracle of patient hands.....divine things lie concealed.”



Time and Talents – February & March 2015



	Altar Care	Head Usher	Usher	Usher	Lector	Fellowship Hour	Nursery	Sunday School
Feb 1	L. Oster	J Hayward	P. Dunning M. Costantino	E Romig R. Weitzel	Pastor Kurt	<i>Soup-er Bowl Congregational Concerns</i>	M Harris	S. Luyk
Feb 8	L. Oster	J Hayward	W. McAuliff	R. Mueller	M. Costantino	S. Listman	L Oster	M Fess
Feb 15	L. Oster	J Hayward	E Romig	S. Romig	P. Dunning	S McAuliff	S. Listman	J Vaccarelli
Feb 22	L. Oster	J Hayward	A. Weitzel	R. Weitzel	S. Hayward	L Oster	S. Luyk	S. Listman
March 1	M Costantino	R Perrine	P. Dunning	E Romig J Hayward	Pastor Kurt	S. Romig	M Harris	S. Luyk
March 8	M Costantino	R Perrine	M. Zebulske	T. Zebulske	J. Hayward	S Varlan	L Oster	M Fess
March 15	M Costantino	R Perrine	M Costantino	M Fess	R Landry	D, Crowley	S. Listman	J Vaccarelli
March 22	M Costantino	R Perrine	J. Harris	M. Harris	J Vaccarelli	J. Goldblatt	M Fess	S. Listman
March 29	M Costantino	R Perrine	J Hayward	W. McAuliff	P. Dunning	J. Lake	S. Luyk	J Vaccarelli

If you are not able to carry out the assigned task or have switched days with someone, please let Pastor Kurt know by the Thursday of the week you are assigned.

Parma Greece UCC February 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship & Communion 10 AM <i>Soup-er Bowl</i> <i>11:15 AM</i>	2 Board of Trustees 7PM	3 Stewardship & Missions 7:15 PM COF Open House 6-7 COF Board Mtg 7-8	4 Worship & Spiritual Life 7PM	5 Christian Development 7PM	6	7 Congregational Concerns 9:30 AM
8 Worship 10 AM Program Committee 11:15	9 Church Council 7PM Salem Nutrition Center 10:30 AM	10	11 Supper & Study 6PM	12	13	14 Valentine's Day
15 Worship 10 AM <i>Transformation Sunday</i> March Newsletter Deadline	16 Presidents' Day ← No COF →	17	18 Ash Wednesday Soup Supper 6 PM Worship 7 PM	19	20	21
22 Worship 10 AM <i>First Sunday in Lent</i>	23	24	25 Lenten Lunches @ HUMC 12 -1 Soup & Study 6PM	26	27	28

PARMA GREECE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Use First
Class
Postage
Only

THE CHRISTIAN CONNECTION

The Good News from Parma Greece United Church of Christ
Our Faith Is Over 2000 Years Old, Our Thinking Is Not!

February 2015

Rev. Kurt Traugott

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10-1 or by appointment,

Wed. by appointment

Announcements and Prayer Concerns:

Pastor Kurt – see above

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