

# 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"

June 2015



## Thoughts from the Moderator

### Make My Joy Complete!

Pastor Kurt did a wonderful job discussing the difference between joy and happiness. So why is joy and happiness so elusive? The baby boomers remember the changes over the decades from the drop out 'beat generation' of Jack Kerouac 50's portrayed by Bob Denver as Maynard G. Krebs. We moved to the drugged out 'Hippie generation' of Harvard's Dr. Timothy Leary 60's, and then the post war "The Jesus Movement" of the Barry McGuire / Jesus Christ Superstar 70's. It seems that when we wander far away from God, he has a way of bringing us back on course.

Christians that have been walking with Christ can sense the urging of the Holy Spirit in their daily lives. That is where the "joy that passes all understanding" comes from. A recent PEW survey of Americans expressing their faith in Christianity has dropped from 78% to 71% over the last decade in all demographics. The Millennial's expression of "no affiliation" rose to 36% in all regions of the country. The result is 1/3 of an entire generation has no spiritual connections.

Our wired world has emptied our souls of learning how to be quiet, to listen to the still small voice, to reflect, to change, to enjoy communion with their Creator.

We live in connectivity to the 'Cloud', cars that drive themselves, video streaming every waking moment from every possible device, and the dawn of artificial intelligence to help make medical and financial decisions. Is this progress for humankind?

In Psalm 46:10 "he says," Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."

At the suggestion of the Long Term Planning Committee, we will be celebrating the Jubilee through this year in 7 week intervals starting on Pentecost Sunday. Paul reminds us, "then make my joy complete by being like-minded having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind." Philippians 2:2.

Our first Jubilee was a rededication of our baptism on May 24<sup>th</sup>. We were encouraged to take the Sunday off, shut down our electronic appliances, spend time with God and our families, relax, and no work. Just a time of reflection and refreshment. This letter will come out after our first Jubilee, so our hope is that you had a great time and your "joy was complete!"

In Christ,  
*Roger*



This past Sunday, we celebrated Pentecost, the beginning of the Christian Church.

As part of our celebration, we renewed our Baptism and offered some thoughts as to how to keep the Sabbath. Through the years, a number of spiritual disciplines have been developed to help us keep a Sabbath time daily. I would be happy to offer a brief time on a Saturday morning to share them with you as we move into the hazy days of summer.

Yet as we talk about those practices, I am keenly aware of our want to be politically correct, which to my dismay has found the language of the church to become more secular. I mean we need to reach out to all those DIY folk who do not need community.

This has come to my mind over the past few months. It has to do with the word sanctuary. When we think of a Bird Sanctuary or an Animal Sanctuary, we all know what that means; it is a place where birds and animals are safe.

Did you know that sanctuary is a religious word. Whether you are talking about the distance between the chancel rail and altar or the whole our religious space...it is sanctuary...a safe place for everyone. And our sanctuary is such a place and I hope it is respected by all of you.

OK, so enough of the heavy stuff, I trust all of you will have a great summer and if any of you are so inclined, I would be happy to have you join me on the golf course.

Blessings...  
Pastor Kurt +

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### Congratulations and Thank You to Parma Greece UCC!

We recently received our Thank You certificate for being a **5 for 5 Congregation** (we support OCWM, Neighbors in Need, One Great Hour of Sharing, Christmas Fund, and Strengthen the Church Special Mission Offerings of the United Church of Christ).

We also received a Certificate of Appreciation for keeping the covenant with the Genesee Valley Association by fulfilling our per capita agreement for 2014.

And we, the members of Parma Greece UCC, received our Thank You certificate for our contribution for the Basic Support of Our Church's Wider Mission.

## THE BOARD OF WORSHIP & SPIRITUAL LIFE



### *Lectionary Readings*

**June 7, 2015**

**Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

1 Samuel 8:4-11, (12-15), 16-20, (11:14-15) Psalm 138 or

Genesis 3:8-15, Psalm 130

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

Mark 3:20-35

**June 21, 2015**

**Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

1 Samuel 17: (1a,4-11,19-23), 32-49 or 1 Samuel 17:57-18:5

18:10-16 Psalm 133 Psalm 9:9-20 or

Job 38:1-11 Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Mark 4:35-41

**June 14, 2015**

**Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**

1 Samuel 15:34-16:13 Psalm 20 or

Ezekiel 17:22-24 Psalm 9:1-4, 12-15

2 Corinthians 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17

Mark 4:26-34

**June 28, 2015**

**Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27 Psalm 130 or

Wisdom of Solomon 1:13-15, 2:23-24

Psalm 30

2 Corinthians 8:7-15

Mark 5:21-43

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## THE BOARD OF CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

**BIRTHDAY!**

June 7 **Bob Perrine**  
Pamela Dunning

June 22 **Sue Moore**

June 13 **Mike Rialdi**

June 25 **Charlie Oster**

## **THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT**

**GARDEN:** As I said last month, I am writing this on a beautiful spring day and we started our garden today! We plan to exceed our 13+ pound contribution to the Hilton Food Shelf this summer with a healthy crop of green and yellow beans, tomatoes, potatoes, watermelons, peppers, basil and whatever else we fancy as the summer goes on! We didn't get our marigolds transplanted yet, but we will add them to the mix along with other flowers. Dave Harris has been very helpful and will be clearing a space for our flowers next to the building and the back ramp. Stop and take a look! Also, take a look at the Memorial Garden, which is taking off in fine fashion!

**FLAG DAY:** We plan to visit the Veterans who reside at Hilton East and honor them with a small gift. We would like to establish a long-term relationship with them and get to know their stories.

**FATHER'S DAY:** We invite you to attend the Father's Day Lunch on Sunday, June 21, 2015 after service. We will be featuring the Vaccarelli version of the Garbage Plate!

**NURSERY:** We are still looking for a sturdy changing table for the nursery.

**BASEBALL:** We have 25 tickets reserved for the Rochester Redwings vs. the Syracuse Chiefs on Friday night, July 31, 2015. Fireworks are included! The game starts at 7PM. Tickets are \$7. The deadline to reserve tickets is July 17, 2015. Please see Sharon Listman to get your tickets. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we had to order more tickets! We could do our own wave!

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** We will be letting you know about the opportunities in our area.

**HAVE A GREAT JUNE!**

## **THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**



June 13 – PGUCC Chicken Barbecue – preparation, grills, kitchen, baking, or clean up (Contact Mike or Tina Zebulske, 227-0937)

# Church History



## “The Excelsiors”

At the turn of the last century, the Christian Church of Parma and Greece had a large and very active congregation. Among the many committees and classes, there was a women’s Bible study group called “the Excelsiors.” They held regular meetings, as well as dinners, parties, field trips and picnics. One of their members, Miss Nellie Schult was their “correspondent,” reporting notable events to the Hilton Record that occurred at church or involved church members. Here is just one excerpt from some of these articles I’ve received.... Thanks to local historian and friend of PGUCC Chuck Nichols.

### The Hilton Record, Thursday April 18<sup>th</sup>, 1912

“About forty members and guests were present at the fifth annual banquet of the Excelsior Class, held Friday evening April 12<sup>th</sup> in the dining hall of the Parma and Greece Christian Church. The dining hall, which was tastefully decorated in the class colors blue and gold, presented a pleasing appearance. After the excellent supper which was served by the table committee, the following program was rendered: Song: “We’re Here Because We’re Here.” Address: Rev. A.T. Mercer, Music: Band, Reading: Bertha Sands, Male Quartette: Allen Speer, Fred Miller, Roy Hicks, Herbert Butler. Speech: Colonel L. Brown. Instrumental Duet: Roy Hicks and A.T. Mercer. Solo: Herbert Butler. Vocal Duet: Esther Lowden and Leah Frisbee. Music: Band of the Excelsior Class, which bids fair to become a full grown Band in the near future.”

I have been given several articles about The Excelsiors dating from 1912 through 1936 – they seemed to be an enthusiastic group of 24 young ladies that created a wonderful bond, fueled by their dedication to our church and each other’s well being. Even the smallest event was celebrated – from someone painting their house, to another member “motoring” to Letchworth park. Even though I didn’t have the pleasure to know these ladies personally, when I read these little articles I have to smile. Whatever similarities we may spot in the events they hosted 200 years ago and the events we plan and execute today, let us take something from this – a message of joy, true love and friendship.

– Jessilou Gage Vaccarelli, Historian

## THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP & MISSIONS



Thank you to all who supported the 2015 Hilton Crop Walk, either by walking or supporting those who walked the 5K or 1 mile route. Thanks to Pastor Kurt for coordinating the walk and educating the congregations and schools! Parma Greece was again very much-involved sending 13 walkers, (including Donna Crowley and her Great- Granddaughters, Gianna and Carlina) and collecting over \$1000 in pledges. At last count, 114 walkers participated from seven churches and two schools and \$4136 was sent to Church World Services. CROP Hunger Walks help to provide food and water, as well as resources that empower people to meet their own needs.

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### **Peanut Butter Update**

We have collected and delivered 130 jars of peanut butter to the Hilton Parma Emergency Food Shelf since we began our collection in February. The Food Shelf has an average of 55 families per month and each family receives a jar of peanut butter in its food package. ***If everyone brought 1 jar of peanut butter each month we could meet the growing demand this summer while the children are out of school.*** Thank you in advance for your generosity!

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If you were in Worship on May 17<sup>th</sup>, you received a sneak peek at the Lap Blankets (made by Beth Mueller) our congregation will be creating for the Christmas baskets. We need your gently used t-shirts and flannel shirts to create these hand-made additions to the baskets. We will be setting a date soon for all of us to gather together for the “blanket construction” but until then... Bring in your flannel & t-shirts!

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# Father's Day Word Search

H M I T H A N K  
 E V O L S U A H  
 L D N A M M O C  
 P W O R K F E M

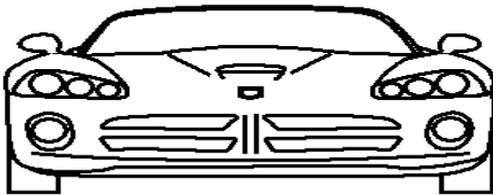
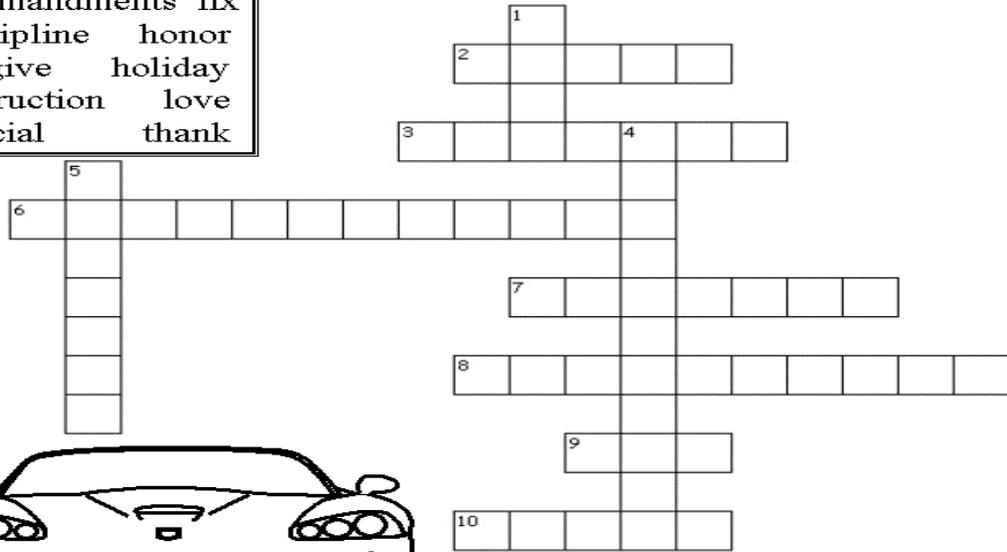


COMMAND  
 HELP  
 LOVE  
 THANK  
 WORK



# Father's Day Crossword

Word List:  
 commandments fix  
 discipline honor  
 forgive holiday  
 instruction love  
 special thank



**Across**

2. We are doing this when we listen, obey, appreciate and forgive your dad.
3. God talks about our father in the Bible because he thinks they are this too.
6. Honor your father and mother is one of the ten \_\_\_\_.
7. Dad's make mistakes too so remember to \_\_\_\_ and forget their mistakes.
8. Dad's do this when we do something wrong so we learn from our mistakes.
9. When your dad can't \_\_\_\_ a problem remember you have a heavenly Father that wants to help.
10. Remember to \_\_\_\_ your dad for all he does for you and your family.

**Down**

1. Make sure to show your dad lots of this by hugging and telling him this.
4. Listen to your father's \_\_\_\_ and you will learn to have discipline and understanding.
5. Father's day is a special \_\_\_\_ to appreciate your dad.



### *Thank you, PGUCC*

*When my ex-husband's family asked me to arrange his memorial service, at first I was surprised, then humbled. This gave me a way to help my children honor their Dad. When his family asked if we could have the memorial service at our church, - again - I was surprised, then honored. I couldn't think of a better place to hold a memorial service that would acknowledge and recognize the personality of the person to be remembered. I wasn't wrong.*

*My children worked with Pastor Kurt and our musical director Sarah on the details.... They selected songs that Mike loved, written by artists like the Grateful Dead, Pink Floyd, Boston, Kansas, James Taylor. They found poems he liked from JRR Tolkien. They chose readings from the Bible that reflected the hope they wanted to convey to all the friends and family that attended - and there were about 100 of them. They even asked for a reading of Psalm 23 in Spanish as a way to acknowledge his wife's family. And true to PGUCC's nature - we accommodated them. Pastor Kurt and Sarah responded to Jevon's and Raeanne's requests with love,, compassion and respect. They truly listened with their hearts. But there was so much more..... The Quinn Family provided a stunning floral arrangement for the altar in shades of blue. The Board of Congregational Concerns and members of my church family sprang into action: Susan Hayward made copies of the program & greeted guests at the door, and placed the flowers. Phil Lake helped with the parking. Madelyn Harris was in the nursery with Melody Fess entertaining the children. During the luncheon, Shirley Snetsinger, Donna Crowley, Sue Wyant, Sue Varlan and Jennifer Lake surprised my husband Larry in the kitchen and followed his lead, preparing and serving a most amazing meal to our guests. The team from the Board of Congregational Concerns was nearly invisible to our guests - and yet everything was done on time, without any interruption to the dozens of reunions that were taking place all around them. And by early afternoon, everything was put away, cleaned and ready for the next day. If I've forgotten to name anyone, forgive me..... You all created a lasting memory and we're very grateful.*

*My children and I received many compliments about the service, the music and our Pastor's message, as well as the satisfying lunch and comfortable setting. It made me proud to be part of this family of faith, one that showed the true nature of Christ.... Loving one another. -Jessie*



On the second (and fifth) Monday of the each month, we invite you to participate in the Salem Nutrition Center lunch ministry, providing meals for those who might not necessarily have a good meal otherwise. There are tasks for everyone, helping the other volunteer staff to prepare and serve this meal. We will car pool leaving at 10:30 am from the church parking lot and return no later than 2:30 pm. We need some helping hands and drivers on June 8<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, July 13<sup>th</sup>, August 10<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. If you have questions or are interested in going, please contact Ann Weitzel.

## *Time and Talents – Summer 2015*

	<b>Altar Care</b>	<b>Head Usher</b>	<b>Usher</b>	<b>Usher</b>	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Fellowship Hour</b>	<b>Nursery</b>	<b>Sunday School Teacher</b>
June 7	P Dunning	J Hayward	D Harris P Dunning	R Weitzel E Romig	Pastor Kurt	S Varlan	S Listman	S Luyk
June 14	P Dunning	J Hayward	W McAuliff	R Mueller	J Vaccarelli	D Crowley	L Oster	M Fess
June 21	P Dunning	J Hayward	S Luyk	J Harris	A Weitzel	<b>Father's Day Lunch</b> Christian Development	M Fess	J. Vaccarelli
June 28	P Dunning	J Hayward	K Perrine	R Perrine	M Zebulske	J Goldblatt	S Luyk	S Listman
July 5	S Leighton	R Perrine	E Romig M Zebulske	P Dunning T Zebulske	Pastor Kurt	J Lake		S Listman
July 12	S Leighton	R Perrine	A Weitzel	R Weitzel	M Costantino	R Landry	L Oster	M Fess
July 19	S Leighton	R Perrine	J Hayward	S Hayward	P Dunning	S Listman	M Fess	J. Vaccarelli
July 26	S Leighton	R Perrine	M Costantino	M Fess	J Hayward	S McAuliff	S Luyk	S Listman
August 2	L Oster	M Zebulske	P Dunning D Harris	J Hayward E Romig	Pastor Kurt	S Mechler	S Listman	S Luyk
August 9	L Oster	M Zebulske	W McAuliff	R Mueller	S Hayward	L Oster	L Oster	M Fess
August 16	L Oster	M Zebulske	S Luyk	J Harris	R Landry	S Snetsinger	M Fess	J. Vaccarelli
August 23	L Oster	M Zebulske	K Perrine	R Perrine	J. Vaccarelli	H Spaan	S Luyk	S Listman
August 30	L Oster	M Zebulske	A Weitzel	R Weitzel	A Weitzel	Annual Church Picnic	S Listman	S Luyk

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 June 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Trustees @ 7 PM	2 Stewardship & Missions 7 PM	3	4 Christian Development 7 PM	5	6 Congregational Concerns 9:30 AM
7 <b>Worship and Communion 10 AM</b>  Choir Sings	8 Council 7 PM  Salem 10:30	9	10	11 Cleaning of the Chickens @9 AM	12	13 Chicken  12-?
14 <b>Worship 10 AM</b>	15 <b>JULY &amp; AUGUST Newsletter Deadline</b>	16	17	18	19	20
21 <b>Worship 10 AM</b> <i>Father's Day Luncheon</i>	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 <b>Worship 10 AM</b>  Congregational Meeting 11:15  Choir Practice 11:15 AM	29 Salem 10:30	30				

# PARMA GREECE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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## THE CHRISTIAN CONNECTION

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

June 2015

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