

# 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"

May 2015



## Thoughts from the Moderator

### Jubilee for YOU!

Have you ever wondered what happened to the Old Testament declaration and celebration of the year of Jubilee? In Leviticus, it was decreed that every 50 years all debts and sins would be forgiven, lands returned to the original forebears, peace and harmony would reign within the twelve tribes dwelling in the land that flows milk and honey. The celebration may have started from the time of Joshua ending roughly 600BC at the exile. Certainly, if you had an outstanding loan or mortgage knowing that Jubilee was coming, you would look forward to that with great anticipation. The price of land typically dropped the closer to the Jubilee and land was only leased for 50 years. All the twelve tribes were to be present for the Jubilee to occur but tribes were missing from Canaan and the Jubilee subsequently was canceled. We do not know how successful the Jubilee was as the centuries passed helping people to have their sins forgiven allowing them to start afresh!

In 1300 AD Pope Boniface reinstated a new version of the Jubilee for the Christian pilgrims to travel to Rome. A special door at St. Peter's would be cemented and walled up for 50 yrs. The Pope knocked upon the Holy door three times with a silver hammer breaking the pre-loosened masonry and then pushed the door open. Pilgrims would then then pick up the holy fragments as relics while egressing. Indulgences were collected by passing through the sacred Jubilee doors of four major Roman cathedrals for

the full remission of sins. Typically, 200,000 pilgrims would converge on Rome and create commerce, excitement, and sleepless nights. The Marriot and Holiday Inn were not in business! In 1517, roughly 200 years later from the first Jubilee, the zeal on Pope Leo X to rebuild St Peter's by collecting indulgences went a little too far for Martin Luther. Luther complained to Tetzel the manager of the Pope's project In Thesis 28. "As soon as a coin in the coffer rings, a soul from purgatory springs". It sure is easy for humans to get off track! The reformation began and the rest is history. The last Catholic Jubilee was in 2000 and has since been improved!

This is 2015, so we want enjoy our own and community Jubilee. Every 50 days from Pentecost we would like to be reminded of making it a special day by closing our iPads, iPhones, off with the TV's, putting down our chores and focus on God for refreshment, devotion, time of reflection, time with others. We are searching for ideas from the congregation on how to make the day a Special Day!

A most beautiful verse from Matthew 11:29  
"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, **for** I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find **rest for your souls.**" Jesus!

In Christ,  
Roger



Last Thursday, I began to ponder what to write for the May Newsletter. It was a warm, sunny spring day. Friday was even better. In my ponderings I found the following in a book titled *God is a Verb* by Marilee Zdenek. It seemed to life up the joy and of the Easter season the days of Spring ahead.

Today, I sit in my study. It is cold and rainy outside. And the funny thing is I still want to share it with you. Only now because it speaks to me of the hope and promise this Easter season and the days of Spring which lie ahead of us:

For:

a creative spring that burst through a barren winter,  
implosions of hope and, explosions of joy,  
a new chance every morning,  
and sometimes --  
heaven now.

Thanks, Lord.

Easter Blessings...

*Pastor Kurt* †

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### HILTON CROP HUNGER WALK, *Sunday, May 3, 2015*



*Registration* beginning at 1 pm at St. Paul's School at 158 East Avenue. The walk raises money for the Hilton-Parma Food Shelf and organizations around the globe working to eradicate hunger.

There are a couple of great ways to support this effort. First, you can walk, either as an individual or as a team, and ask your family, friends, and colleagues to sponsor you. There is a one-mile and a 5K path. A second way to support the CROP Walk is to donate money, either by sponsoring a walker or by giving directly to the walk. You can give directly online by going to [www.cropwalk.org](http://www.cropwalk.org) and searching for Hilton-Parma's walk.

One in seven people go to bed hungry every night around the world, and hunger is a real problem in our community. We hope everyone will support this important effort. For more information, or to sign up to walk or donate, please see Mike Zebulske or Pastor Kurt.

## THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT



WOW! An Easter Sunday we will long remember; full pews, lots of flowers, four babies and joyful sounds to celebrate our risen Lord! Our children stayed in the service, it seemed the packet of activities, and the goodies that followed worked very well. We do have to do a better distribution job before the service starts so everyone has a packet and it is the right one. All in all, those precious young people proved to be an excellent audience!



I am writing this on a beautiful spring day and it is making me think gardens! We will be planning and planting a garden again this year. We hope to exceed our 13+ pound contribution to the Hilton Food Shelf this summer. The children will be deciding what to plant (tomatoes and green beans will be in the mix as they are very popular) and we will get started in the next few weeks. We already have a crop of marigolds to transplant, beauty before veggies!



We invite you to attend the Mother's Day Tea on Sunday, May 10, 2015 after service. You have already received information about the Art Show that will be a part of the celebration. We look forward to getting better acquainted with each other through the crafts, collections, poetry, food and conversations.



We did a major clean-up in the nursery during the recent work day. We wiped down every Lincoln Log, put out books that had been hidden, dusted everything in sight and sorted and sorted! We noticed that our old changing table had disappeared. It was a very useful piece of furniture. We know that many parents are very comfortable changing their babies on a pad on the floor, but we grandmothers have a little trouble getting up after being on the floor, so we wondered if anyone has a sturdy changing table that they might like to donate. We are aware that only parents or the caregivers of babies can do the diaper changes and other care needed, not the nursery attendant, but a table would be helpful. Let us know if you can help.

## THE BOARD OF CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

# HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAY TO...

1 Tara Rudgers

4 Marj Scott & Caleb Wilson

5 Ann Weitzel

13 Nathaniel Harris

17 Phyllis Reed

18 Eric Romig

20 Sharon Rialdi

21 Lois Long



### Easter Breakfast *Thank You*

The Board of Congregational Concerns would like to thank all for our Easter breakfast celebration. Over fifty of us joined in wonderful fellowship and great food. Thanks to all who attended, made food and the wonderful Kitchen Krew who cooked for us all. Our church family has had a blessed celebration of the Resurrection!



# The 2<sup>nd</sup> All-Church-Family Art Show

## Sunday, Mother's Day, May 10th, 2015

Yes, we are going to do it again!! I would like to invite you to participate in the 2nd All-Church-Family Art Show. Now before you stop reading, saying to yourself, "I'm not an artist." please, don't worry, you don't have to be! The concept of this show is much broader than that, as those of you who participated the last time understand! At that time, 22 exhibitors showed the work of 45 different people!

**First:**

Not everything has to be for sale, in fact, most won't be!

**Second:**

You don't have to be the artist, you can submit anything done by any member of your family, whether living or deceased.

**Third:**

In this show, art is not narrowly defined because I consider anything made with love to be art. It can be: your grandmother's crocheted tablecloth, your dad's hand-made knick-knack shelf, your great aunt's china teapot that she painted, your sister's quilt, your brother's carved pipe, your uncle's wonderful photographs. Someone perhaps has done paper-cutting, egg decorating, floral arranging, sewing, writing of any sort, like a cookbook or poems (not just published pieces), song writing, stained glass or metal work or even a great collection of things, not necessarily made by the person, but collected by them. In other words, if somewhere in your home, you have something, anything, that you consider special, bring it to share with the rest of your church family!

-Continued-

**The whole point of this show is to highlight and share the creations of the people who are here and/or who have come before us to make us who we are. It is to open a window into the lives of the people involved in Parma Greece UCC and all their vast talents and interests. I know you have things. Please share them. Even if you showed your only prized possession in our last show, that was 6 years ago and I can guarantee you, no one will remember how wonderful it was! So-participate please!**

This show will be on exhibit at church, Sunday, May 10th following church service at 10 a.m. After the Mother's Day luncheon, you may take home your belongings.

Please bring your items to church on that Saturday, May 9th, in the morning from 10 a.m. till 1p.m. Each family will have their own 6-8 foot table to exhibit their pieces. If you don't have enough for a whole table display, several people could share a table. I will be available, if you want, to help you set up your display. I do think it would be great to bring a picture of the person who made an object, if they are not here now. And don't forget some nice coverings for the table itself. You can bring as much as you'd like, I hope all of our families will be represented, even if you need 3 tables!

***Of course, those who are aspiring artists in any medium may bring work to show and possibly sell.***

Please call me at home at 730-7186 if you have any questions or concerns and thank you for participating as I hope you all will.

We had such a great time 6 years ago!

Thanks - Jodie



May 16, 2015 – PGUCC Chicken Barbecue – preparation, grills, kitchen, baking, or clean up (Contact Mike or Tina Zebulske @ 227-0937)

**THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP & MISSIONS**

**THANK YOU!**

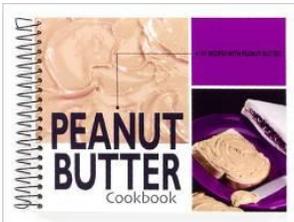
## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

*Thank You! To date we have collected \$360 to make a difference in the lives of people and communities around the world.*

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*WANTED! PEANUT BUTTER (the Protein of the Food Shelf)! We have delivered 79 jars of peanut butter (our "adopted" shelf) to the Hilton Food Shelf with another full box ready to go. Please continue to bring your donations as we are the main source of this shelf stable protein.*



*Foodies! Fun! Dig out your ingredients for your favorite recipe or try a new recipe for peanut butter foods (are you ready for peanut butter lasagna?). Date and details to be announced!*

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**Strengthen The Church (STC)** is a special mission offering to reimagine and build the future of the UCC. Shared at the conference and national levels, STC largely supports youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC voice has not been heard.

As God calls our congregations to be the "church" in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. STC funds will also be used to award grants to help congregations communicate the "God is still speaking," message. Our congregation will receive the STC offering on Pentecost Sunday, May 24, 2015. You may also mail your offering to the church.

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## **FOODLINK MOBILE FOOD PANTRY**



Where... Hilton DPW Garage  
50 Henry Street  
Hilton, NY 14468

When... May 9, 2015

Food will be distributed between 11AM- 1PM  
No Income or Residential Eligibility Required



## May 2015 Lectionary

### **May 3 (Fifth Sunday of Easter)**

Acts 8:26-40  
Psalm 22:25-31  
1 John 4:7-21  
John 15: 1-8

### **May 17 (Seventh Sunday of Easter)**

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26  
Psalm 1  
1 John 5:9-13  
John 17:6-19

### **May 10 (Sixth Sunday of Easter)**

Acts 10:44-48  
Psalm 98  
1 John 5:1-6  
John 15:9-17

### **May 24 (Pentecost Sunday)**

Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14  
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21  
John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

### **May 31 (Trinity Sunday) (First Sunday after Pentecost)**

Isaiah 6:1-8  
Psalm 29  
Romans 8: 12-17  
John 3:1-7



# Parma Greece UCC May 2015



## Time and Talents – May 2015

	Altar Care	Head Usher	Usher	Usher	Lector	Fellowship Hour	Nursery	Sunday School Teacher
May 3	S McAuliff	D Harris	P Dunning J Hayward	R Weitzel D Harris	Pastor Kurt	S Mechler	M Harris	S Luyk
May 10	S McAuliff	D Harris	R Mueller	W McAuliff	J Hayward	<b>Mother's Day Tea &amp; Art Show</b>  (Program Committee)	S Luyk	M Fess
May 17	S McAuliff	D Harris	K Perrine	R Perrine	S Hayward	L Oster	M Fess	J Vaccarelli
May 24	S McAuliff	D Harris	M Zebulske	T Zebulske	R Landry	S Snetsinger	M Harris	S. Listman
May 31	S McAuliff	D Harris	D Harris P Dunning	R Weitzel E Romig	Pastor Kurt	H Spaan	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.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Congregational Concerns 9:30 AM
3 <b>Worship and Communion 10 AM</b> <i>Worship &amp; Spiritual Life 11:30</i> CROP WALK 1:00 PM	4 Trustees 7 PM	5 Stewardship & Missions 7 PM  COF Board Meeting 6:30	6	7 Christian Development 7 PM	8	9  Art Show Set Up 10-1
10 <b>Worship 10 AM</b> <i>Mother's Day Tea &amp; Art Show</i>  <b>Mother's Day</b>	11 Salem 10:30 <b>Council 7 PM</b>  NO COF – Field Trip	12   NO COF – Field Trip	13	14  Cleaning of the Chickens 9 AM  Ascension Day	15  <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	16  Chicken  12-?
17 <b>Worship 10 AM</b>	18	19	20	21  COF Graduation 6:00	22	23
24 <b>Worship 10 AM Pentecost Sunday</b> Strengthen The Church Offering	25  <b>Memorial Day</b>	26	27	28	29	30
31 <b>Worship 10 AM</b>						

# 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!

May 2015

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Wed. by appointment

Announcements and Prayer

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Pastor Kurt – see above

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