

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"

March 2015



Thoughts from the Moderator

Remembering Kayla Jean Muller

In these tumultuous times we were shocked by the reports of a kidnapped American aid worker from Prescott, Arizona was killed in Syria in February. The parents and town kept her captivity a secret to keep her alive. She was 26 and had worked as an aid worker in India, Israel Palestinian territories, back home in Prescott, where she volunteered at an HIV/AIDS clinic and a women's shelter, and finally in the Turkish / Syrian border refugee camps. She was visiting a friend in Aleppo and was snatched on her way back to Turkey by ISIS. She had been in captivity for 18 months. An attempt to free her and three other Americans by the Special Forces occurred last July but only a locket of her hair remained in the prison cell. The captives were moved hours before.

She was a remarkable 'Millennial'. A letter was secreted out to her parents by a fellow captive that was released. She said, "I find God in the suffering eyes reflected in mine, if this is how you are revealed to me, this is how I will forever seek you. ... I remember mom always telling me that all in all in the end the only one you really have is God. I have come to a place in experience where, in every sense of the word, I have surrendered myself to our creator b/c literally there was no else.... + by God + by your prayers I have felt tenderly cradled in freefall. ... I have been shown in darkness, light + have learned that even in prison, one can be free. I am grateful. I have come to see that there is good in every situation, sometimes we just have to look for it. I pray each day that if nothing else, you have felt a certain closeness + surrender to God as well + have formed a bond of love + support amongst one another..."

Remembrances from family and friends give us some insight to what made her tick. She found joy and

expression in serving those that need comforting and aid the most. Most importantly, she expressed her faith in God, felt his presence more intimately through the relieving of the suffering of others. As I write this I am humbled by her willingness to sacrifice all, ignore her daily need for comfort, and completely assimilate to those she is serving. She is part Mother Theresa, part Corrie ten Boom, part mystic, but became fully Kayla, fully free.

Paul was acquainted with suffering but seemed to flourish in his willingness to surrender himself to the gospel mission. "In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory. Ephesians 3:12,13

If we are part of the human family, it is hard to escape our own internal struggles, those of family members and friends. Suffering is part of the road we travel.

From Pastor Kurt's recent message on "The Original Artist" he stated, "Who was Jesus? A 'Doctor of Grace.'

He came to free people, not to enslave them; to liberate people, not to bind them to narrow interpretations of the law. ... He brings life and joy, peace and wellbeing, even when we are going through periods of great torment. His message was no dull, regulatory manifesto from a remote God but a bright burst of good news about a God become accessible, with forgiveness in his heart and healing in his words....

Who are we? 'Doctors of Grace' like Jesus.

Together we can point out to each other those moments in our lives when God's redemptive movement is near to us. In so doing, let us be free and creative in the Spirit." Kayla would be thrilled to know we are praying for those that are suffering in Syria. Thank you, Kurt, for delivering such a fine art piece!

Roger



When I was growing up, I often heard adults refer to life as a "rat race". It was so, not because folk seem to be running from one place to another but because they seemed to be scurrying endlessly here and there in activity that made no sense. This was the time of the half-read page, the quick meal from McDonald's and the dash off to another task. Then along comes the internet, which only seems to enhance the "rat race".

Then for Christians comes Lent. I write this the day after we celebrated the First Sunday in Lent wondering if given the continued "rat race", do we really take advantage of Lent in our spiritual lives which could have impact on our daily lives. We often say that Lent is a time of reflection but do we really mean that and do it. The Welsh poet, W. D. Davies, once wrote:

*What is this life, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.*

Lent a time to stop and stare, a time to change pace of our lives. It's like someone putting up a sign which read: "You are entering the Town of Lent. Slow down and see our city." And, yes, the sites you see will be different than mine, your reflections and mine will be a personal thing. But, on one thing let us agree, that Lent is a time to ponder our relationship to God. And I know there are many avenues to do this and I would lift up our Wednesday night Supper and Study. Yet, my hope is that you will take some avenue, Wednesday night, daily Bible reading, daily meditation time. So what we celebrate on Easter together it will be a deeper and fuller relationship with God through the resurrection of our Lord.

Blessings on the Journey...

Pastor Kurt †



March 11 @ 6 PM
March 18 @ 6 PM
March 25 @ 6 PM



Lenten Lunches

The Hilton United Methodist Church will host the Lenten lunches again this year. Lunch is served Wednesdays during Lent, Noon to 1PM in the fellowship area and all are invited to attend to share food as well as faith. The scheduled lunches are:

March 4th
March 11th
March 18th
March 25th



Soup-er Bowl Results

The Board of Congregational Concerns would like to thank everyone who participated in our amazing Souper Bowl! It is hard to believe that we can continue to top the prior year but you all do. We had 16 different soups enter the contest, but of course, there can only be one winner. Drum roll please: the winner is Susan Hayward with her amazing Strawberry Soup. Second place went to Tara Rudgers with peanut butter soup and third place went to Shirley Snetsinger with her savory cheese soup. Again thank you to all, whether you made a soup or helped to judge *everyone* was needed to make this a success!



The Board of Congregational Concerns would like to thank each and every one of you for your contribution to the annual Pie Buffet! Whether you made one or tasted one, it certainly helps to digest all the financial information from the Annual Meeting. We had 16 pies both sweet and savory. Our church certainly knows how to make things fun!
THANKS AGAIN FOR CONTRIBUTIONS!

FOR US

Write the first letter of each picture on the line.
Mary said to the disciples,

“ _____ ”











_____”

-John 20:18



We have just begun a new session of curriculum that will take us through Pentecost Sunday. We (children and teachers alike) are enjoying this curriculum. It is lectionary based, so we are learning about one of the same verses that Pastor Kurt is talking about during the worship service. It is fun, with a cartoon video to begin our discussion and plenty of craft ideas to make the hour go quickly. Talk with the children about what they are doing in class and what they think about it.

We are planning to develop a relationship with the veterans who reside at Hilton East, as well as the veterans within our congregation. We had hoped to start with a field trip to Hilton East, but the weather has not been our friend, so we have had to postpone until a better time. We are hoping to use this connection to learn about caring and friendship with some of our seniors and learn about their history.

Check out the bulletin board outside of our classroom. There are some examples of classroom work as well as some news items. There is a recent newspaper article about the value of doing things together as a family. There is an article from BETTER HOMES AND GARDENS; one of a series they did called “The Good Kid Project”. I liked the series very much, so I thought you might also.



Please remember that we have “adopted” the peanut butter shelf at the Hilton Food Shelf. Do not forget to bring your  !



1. What is One Great Hour of Sharing®?

One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Churches Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God’s message of love and hope to people in 138 countries. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water and food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, emergency relief, and advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response. We will collect the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on March 15, 2015 or you may mail your offering to the church.

2. Who participates in One Great Hour of Sharing?

Eight Christian denominations - *American Baptist Church, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Church of the Brethren, Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Church (USA), Reformed Church in America, the United Church of Christ, and Church World Service* work together to develop common promotional materials thereby sharing ideas, costs, and a commitment to faithful service.

Each denomination receives and manages its respective OGHS offerings, and together raise about \$12 million each year.

3. How is the United Church of Christ's offering used?

More than 60 percent of the UCC's offering supports international development initiatives, including annual support for missionaries. Currently there are 7 OGHS supported missionaries and 2 Global Mission Interns working in disaster relief, health care, education, and agricultural development. The offering funds disaster preparedness and response, and disaster related volunteer initiatives in the U.S.

The Hilton Parma Emergency Food Shelf



The “Scouting for Food” collection will be on Saturday, March 21. On that day, the Boy and Girl Scouts will be collecting the grocery bags they left the week before. Please fill the bags with grocery items such as oatmeal, juice, soups, canned pastas, baked beans, canned fruits and vegetables, tuna, spaghetti sauce, peanut butter and jelly, dry pasta, macaroni & cheese, paper supplies, dish and laundry detergent and soap. Leave the bag on our doorstep for the Scouts to pick up and deliver to the Hilton Community Center to be sorted. Help those families in need in the Hilton area.



2 – Jessie Vaccarelli
7 – Susan Hayward & Sue Leighton
10 – Shirley Snetsinger
12- Sharon Listman
13 – Kimberly (Zebulske) Philby
15 – Fran Pierce
16 – Rod Rudgers
17 – Phil Lake
21 – Helen Spaan
25 – Bea Holmes
28 – Scott Rudgers & Gabe Lindsay
29 – Tim Magee
30 – Jaclyn (Zebulske) Burgess & Mary Costantino & Shirley Mechler & Don Weagley

6



March 2015 Lectionary

March 1, 2015

Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9

March 8, 2015

Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22

March 15, 2015

Fourth Sunday Lent

Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

March 22, 2015

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33

March 29, 2015

Palm/Passion Sunday

Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16
Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-39 (40-47)



2015 SCHEDULE

April 25
May 16
June 13
July 18
August 15
September 12
October 10



Time and Talents – March 2015



	Altar Care	Head Usher	Usher	Usher	Lector	Fellowship Hour	Nursery	Sunday School
March 1	M Costantino	R Perrine	P Dunning D Harris	W McAuliff 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 Fess	M Costantino	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
Palm Sunday March 29	M Costantino	R Perrine	J Hayward	W McAuliff	P Dunning	J Lake	S Luyk	J Vaccarelli
EASTER April 5	M & S Rialdi	M Zebulske	P Dunning D Harris	R Mueller R Weitzel	Pastor Kurt	Easter Breakfast	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 United Church of Christ March 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>Second Sunday in Lent</i> Worship & Communion 10AM Choir Sings	2 Trustees 7PM	3 Stewardship & Missions 7:15PM COF Board Meeting 6:30-8 PM	4 Lenten Lunch @ HUM @ 12 Worship & Spiritual Life 7PM	5 Christian Development 7PM	6 World Day of Prayer	7 Congregational Concerns 9:30AM
8 <i>Third Sunday in Lent</i> Worship 10AM Oster Baby Shower (12-5)	9 Salem 10:30 AM Church Council 7PM	10 CROP Walk Meeting 7 PM	11 Lenten Lunch @ HUM @12 Soup & Study 6 PM	12 PRC @ 7PM	13	14
15 <i>Fourth Sunday in Lent</i> Worship 10AM <i>One Great Hour of Sharing</i> April Newsletter Deadline	16 Home Bureau 9-3	17  St. Patrick's Day	18 Lenten Lunch @ HUM @ 12 Soup & Study 6PM	19 Long Range Planning 7 PM	20	21
22 <i>Fifth Sunday in Lent</i> Worship 10AM	23	24	25 Lenten Lunch @ HUM @ 12 Soup & Study 6PM	26	27	28
29 <i>Palm Sunday</i> Worship 10AM Choir Sings New Member Sunday	30 Salem 10:30AM	31	1 Worship & Spiritual Life 7PM	2 <i>Maundy Thursday</i> Soup & Service 6 PM	3 <i>Good Friday</i> Tennebrae 7 PM	4 Congregational Concerns 9:30AM (Breakfast Set-up)

PARMA GREECE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1211 Manitou Rd
Hilton, New York 14468
(585) 392-6120

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!

March 2015

Rev. Kurt Traugott
Office Phone - 392-6120
Home Phone - 730-7186
Cell Phone - 354-8825
E-mail: pastorrkt@yahoo.com
Office Hours: Mon, Tues & Thurs.:
10-1 or by appointment,
Wed. by appointment
Announcements and Prayer
Concerns:
Pastor Kurt - see above
Newsletter Contact:
TMZebulske@aol.com
Website:
www.ParmaGreeceUCC.org

