

# 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"

October 2014



## Thoughts from the Moderator

### Time for Halloween

On July 19, 1692, Rebecca Towne Nurse was hung for being a witch in Salem Village (now known as Danvers) Mass. She was 71 years old and a very honored and pious member of the community. A land dispute with the Putnam family was thought to be the origin of the accusation made by the 12 year old daughter Ann Putnam having 'spectral fits' being tormented by Rebecca Nurse. Edward and John Putnam brought the charges to the court. It turns out that the Puritan community around Salem was a tough place to work. The people were typically fractious and could only keep ministers for 3 to 6 years before they moved on.

A sugar merchant turned minister, Samuel Parris was called and arrived in 1689 with the pulpit being empty for a year. The congregation had a habit of not paying their pastors! With his family, he brought a servant, Tituba, from Barbados. During his first year, he was not able to soothe the acrimonious congregation, mainly a feud between the Porter and Putnam families.

His 9-year-old daughter Betsy took ill with the 'Evil Hand' in 1692 and trying her hand in some Barbados magic. The rest is history, 19 innocent parishioners died on the gallows and more in prison waiting for trial.

Finally, Governor Phips and Rev. Increase Mather and son Cotton tamped down the hysteria in 1693 and Rebecca was re-instated in the church in 1712.

The original house still stands on 27 acres of the original 300 held by the Nurse family and open to the public. There is a monument in the graveyard to her and the others. In the early 1700's the church confessed their wrongdoings and Ann recited her apologies to the Nurse family for her actions. It turns out that my wife is related to Rebecca Nurse.

While visiting the homestead it was interesting to meet another ancestor of hers from San Diego. Fortunately, the sons and daughters of Rebecca Nurse lived on!

Fast forward to 2014, roughly 422 years later, Mankind is still capable of turning on their fellow human kind. Jesus lays out a plan of relating to your fellow man that was a total paradigm shift from normal human nature. "Love your enemy and pray for those that persecute you." Matt 5:44. Today in the Middle East many thousands of Christians have been killed and exiled. They have lived there for 2000 years and now their way of life is gone. Our task is to pray for these desperate people. Our heart breaks as we look on to their fate. Our hope is that the current religious fanaticism will pass and that we humans are of one family and can live in peace. "And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Phil 4:7

In Christ,  
*Roger*



*As we enter the month of October, I share with you two significant worship opportunities. The first is World Communion Sunday. It is a celebration observed by several Christian denominations, taking place on*

*the first Sunday of every October, that promotes Christian unity and ecumenical cooperation. The tradition originated in the Shadyside Presbyterian Church in 1933, was adopted throughout the US Presbyterian Church in 1936, and subsequently spread to other denominations. In 1940, the Federal Council of Churches (now the National Council of Churches), led by Jesse Moren Bader, endorsed World Communion Sunday and began to promote it to Christian churches worldwide.*

*When I think of World Communion Sunday, I get excited about the fact that tens of thousands of Christian brothers and sisters around the world are coming to the Lord's Table to remember our Lord and to proclaim his final victory to the world.*

*It doesn't matter what part of the world we're hailing from, because from God's perspective there are no political, ethnic, cultural or national boundaries. From God's perspective, we are One people, the People of God!*

*We are one and in our oneness lies our strength; in our oneness will the world see the difference in us—through our love the world will see the love and grace of Jesus Christ. I look forward to celebrating the day with all of you.*

*The second date is October 26th. This happens to be Reformation Sunday and is also the date of the Fall Association meeting. The meeting will be held at Salem UCC in downtown Rochester. Salem came into the UCC as a church of the Evangelical & Reformed denomination. Before that it was part of the Evangelical Synod in North America with its roots dating back to the Reformation. At present, Salem is the only UCC presence in the city proper and there is a committee at work seeking ways for that ministry to continue. Given that, the Association meeting has included a time in the agenda for folk to come in the morning and share in the richness of worship at Salem. The church is located at 60 Bittner St. and worship begins at 10 AM and I would encourage any from PGUCC who are interested to join in worship at Salem that morning.*

*Blessings  
Pastor Kurt +*

*PS...Make sure you bring me a bulletin...**only kidding**, go an be inspired.*

## THE BOARD OF CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS



It's been a few years since our formal PGUCC Directory was done. During this time, there have been many changes. Therefore, Congregational Concerns is putting together a supplement to the 2011 Directory. We will put everyone's updated info together and it will be available upon request. This update will include the most current phone numbers (home and /or cell), addresses, and email addresses which we will have for our congregation. If you do not wish to have your information published for our church community, please contact either Susan Hayward or Sue Wyant to have part or all omitted. Also, if you would like to include any email addresses that we may not have please contact the same people.

Thank you!

---

## HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAY TO...

- 3 *Dave Harris*
- 10 *Rachel Oster*  
*Larry Vaccarelli*
- 17 *Mike Zebulske*
- 19 *Zachary Johnson*
- 22 *Joan Blossom*
- 23 *Rebecca Weitzel*
- 30 *Ellie Schrieb*

---

### A CELEBRATION OF BABY STAEBELL



The Board of Congregational Concerns would like to invite everyone to help celebrate the upcoming birth of Sarah and Aaron Staebell's daughter. It is such an exciting time of life for our church to see our family grow. Baby Girl Staebell is due to arrive on Christmas day. How exciting!!! Sarah suggested that if their daughter is born early Christmas Eve Day that she and her baby could be at the late service on Christmas Eve! Pastor Kurt offered to supply a manger. (Let's not count on any of that!) With their music background, Sarah and Aaron's baby is sure to have a great future. So please join in a celebratorial brunch on Sunday, Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in the Fellowship Hall, following our church service. We look forward for everyone being able to attend. If you have questions, please call Sue Wyant (392-6497) or Susan Hayward (964-7275).

# THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT

We have had a good summer! We solved our mystery recipe by putting the pieces of the



puzzle together and it resulted in the delicious Friendship Bread we all tasted on September 14. We also grew a good garden this summer, contributing produce to the Hilton Emergency Food Shelf and flowers to our classroom. We have some potatoes to dig and then we will put it to bed until next spring.



We also started our new fall curriculum on September 14—what a day! The curriculum is a lectionary based one which means we are talking about the same things in the classroom that are being talked about in the sanctuary. We will keep you posted on how it goes!

Our classroom is now the BARBARA A. HARRIS CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT ROOM. Pastor Kurt dedicated the room with plaque and new clock in a brief service on September 14. (As I said, what a day!) Barbara's spirit gives us strength, energy and direction.

## Program Committee

### COMING ATTRACTIONS!

**Sunday, October 19**—bring your appetites and don't plan to go home for lunch! Peg



Lafferty is hosting a Harvest Brunch for our coffee hour. Do not miss it!



**Sunday, November 2**—Halloween Party will start during the Sunday School hour and spill over into the coffee hour. Children are invited to wear their Halloween costumes. We will decorate cookies, play games and join the regular coffee hour for more refreshments and games. Children are invited to bring a friend! See you there!



**Sunday, November 30**—Advent Event! Can you believe we are talking about advent already?! We will have lunch, crafts and a general celebration of the first day of advent. We have a little time left; look for more information in the November newsletter. Oh yes, it's not too early to start thinking about your Christmas shopping!

Begin at the arrow and go clockwise around the heart.  
Write every other letter on the lines.  
Go around two times.

John 3:16

This is the last letter, first time around. Then you must skip 2 letters to continue.

START

2nd TIME

END

## THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP & MISSIONS

**NEIGHBORS IN NEED 2014** is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry(CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries(JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. Funding is provided through donations to the Neighbors in Need offering.

Our congregations will receive the NIN offering on **October 5, 2014** as part of World Communion Sunday observance. You may also mail your contribution to the church.

### HILTON PARMA EMERGENCY FOOD SHELF



MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

October 25th is “Make a Difference Day” but YOU can help make a difference every day during October by being an advocate for the hungry. We continue to struggle to keep the shelves stocked with groceries for the increasing number of emergency calls. Stop in and bring us a bag of food on October 25<sup>th</sup> at TOPS or the Hilton Community Center! We are in especially in need of **tuna fish, peanut butter, and macaroni & cheese.**

Tax-deductible donations (made out to HPCCC) can be sent to:

Hilton Parma Emergency Food Shelf  
Box 127  
Hilton, NY 14468

Donations can be delivered to the Hilton Food Shelf at 59 Henry Street on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Friday mornings from 9-11 or Thursday evenings from 6-7.

Thank You for your continued generosity!

**Blessing  
of the  
Animals**



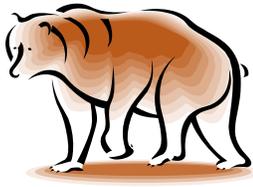
Parma Greece will host the “Blessing of the Animals” on Sunday, October 5 @ 3 PM in the Memory Garden (weather permitting). All pets are welcome to attend and for the Blessing by Pastor Kurt. We also welcome photos of our pets that cannot attend and those that have left us. For more information, please see a member of the Board.

# Church History

## Animals have Ancestors too!



In the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, settlers moved into this area for the bountiful woodlands, the lake, the river and its tributaries, the powerful waterfalls..... but, with all this beauty and opportunity came wildlife – in abundance.



As they cleared the land and built their homes, they had the challenge of wild animals to contend with. It was not uncommon to see deer, geese, fox, turkeys, wood chucks and pheasants, but there were also large populations of bear, big cats, eagles, hawks, falcons and vultures. Let's not forget coyotes, wolves, and snakes.



Farmers had to do what they could to protect their homes and livestock from this community of living things surrounding their farms. These animals may have provided the settlers with food, clothing and even tools if the farmer was skilled enough at hunting. But care needed to be taken to ensure safe boundaries around their homes and properties.



Often, one of the jobs the lady of the house would have first thing in the morning was to boil some water and then pour it on the floor near the doorway, so it would run out onto the step or threshold, chasing away snakes that enjoyed the warmth of the stone throughout the night. Animals were frequently brought into the basement of homes to protect them.

(Continued)



Hawks and eagles could easily make a meal of a brood of small chicks or ducklings. Even cows, horses, and goats were invited inside if there was danger outside the door. (At times, the smell was overwhelming!)

Dogs owned by the farmers were valuable alarm systems, alerting the family when predators were nearing the livestock. Cats were assigned the task of keeping the homes and barns free of rodents that would consume grain and produce.

The farmers' livelihood depended upon their ability to protect their crops and family, but also to live in harmony with the animals that were the original residents of this beautiful area. Unfortunately some of the animals that were living in this area are not here any longer, in part due to the fact that people took over the land and forced them out of their natural habitat. But we still feel a thrill when we see a herd of deer in a field of snow, or a red-tailed hawk sitting on a high branch, a rafter of turkeys in our backyard. They have ancestors too.....animals that have lived in these fields and forests for generations. As the autumn leaves fall, and the air becomes crisp and clear, take a moment to step outside and watch and listen - to the songs of birds and the rustle of small creatures in the bush - these are the same sounds and sights that our founders heard when they first arrived here in Parma. Let's continue to protect and preserve, not only our own history - but the history of the little portion of the earth we call our own.

- Jessie Gage Vaccarelli, historian

Proverbs 12:10

A righteous man has regard for the life of his animal.

## THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



October 11 - PGUCC Chicken Barbecue - preparation, grills, kitchen, baking, or clean up. **Baked goods are needed.** *Pies* are very popular with the customers (and helpers!). *Cookies* and cakes need to be in small packets, 8 cookies per pack as an example. *Small cakes* should be cut in fourths. *Fruit breads* are also very popular.

(Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board across from the Pastor's office or call Mike & Tina 227-0937 to lend a hand)

## **THE BOARD OF WORSHIP & SPIRITUAL LIFE**



### *October 2014 Lectionary Readings*

#### **October 5 (27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)**

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9 Psalm 19 or  
Isaiah 5:1-7 Psalm 80:7-15  
Philippians 3:4b-14  
Matthew 21:33-46

#### **October 12 (28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)**

Exodus 32:1-14 Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23 or  
Isaiah 25:1-9 Psalm 23  
Philippians 4:1-9  
Matthew 22:1-14

#### **October 19 (29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)**

Exodus 33:12-23 Psalm 99 or  
Isaiah 45 Psa:1-7 Psalm 96:1-9, (10-13)  
1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10  
Matthew 22:15-22

#### **October 26 (30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)**

Deuteronomy 34:1-12 Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 or  
Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 Psalm 1  
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8  
Matthew 22:34-46



## Time and Talents –October 2014



	Altar Care	Head Usher	Usher	Usher	Lector	Fellowship Hour	Nursery	Sunday School
October 5	Rialdi	J Hayward	D Harris P Dunning	J Hayward W McAuliff	Pastor Kurt	D Crowley	M Harris	S Luyk
October 12	Rialdi	J Hayward	A Weitzel	R Weitzel	M Costantino	J Lake	L Oster	J Vaccarelli
October 19	Rialdi	J Hayward	M Zebulske	T Zebulske	A Weitzel	<i>Harvest Breakfast</i> Program Committee	S Luyk	M Fess
October 26	Rialdi	J Hayward	M Harris	S Harris	P Dunning	R Landry	M Fess	S Listman
November 2	P Dunning	R Perrine	D Harris P Dunning	J Hayward W McAuliff	M Zebulske	S Listman	M Harris	

The following people are **Head Ushers** (J. Hayward, D. Harris, R. Perrine, and M. Zebulske if you need a replacement for your assigned day. Please see Pamela Dunning or a member of the Board Worship & Spiritual Life if you need the explanation of this Worship Responsibility)

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 OCTOBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Worship & Spiritual Life @ 7 PM	2 Christian Development @ 7 PM	3	4
5 <b>Worship &amp; Communion 10 AM</b> <i>Neighbors In Need</i> <i>Offering</i> Blessing of the Animals @ 3 PM <b>World Communion Sunday</b>	6 Trustees @7PM	7 Stewardship & Missions @ 7PM	8 Supper & Study 6PM COF Field Trip	9 Cleaning of the Chickens @9 AM  COF Field Trip  Wedding Rehearsal 6 PM	10 Wedding 4 PM  COF - No School	11 Chicken  12-?
12 <b>Worship 10 AM</b>  Congregation Concerns 11:15 AM	13 Salem @ 10:30 AM  Council @7PM  COF- No School	14	15 HPCCC@ Noon  Supper & Study 6PM  <i>November Newsletter Deadline</i>	16	17	18
19 <b>Worship 10 AM</b>  Harvest Breakfast	20 Home Bureau 9:30-3	21	22 Supper & Study 6PM	23	24	25
26 <b>Worship 10 AM</b> <i>GVA Fall Meeting @ Salem UCC</i> Baby Staebell Celebration	27	28	29 Supper & Study 6PM	30	31  Halloween	

# 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!

October 2014

### **Rev. Kurt Traugott**

Office Phone - 392-6120

Home Phone - 730-7186

Cell Phone - 354-8825

E-mail: [pastorrtk@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorrtk@yahoo.com)

Office Hours: Monday – Thur. 10-1 or  
by appointment

### **Announcements and Prayer**

### **Concerns:**

Pastor Kurt – see above

### **Newsletter Contact:**

Tina: 227-0937 or

[TMZebulske@aol.com](mailto:TMZebulske@aol.com)

