



An Open and Affirming, Accessible to All Congregation



A Message from Our Pastor, the Rev. Amy Gopp

Beloved of God,

On Sunday we will celebrate Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended upon the community of disciples and the Church was born—how fitting as we all live into a new normal in the face of this pandemic. It is now our moment to be receptive to God’s power to breathe new life, ushering the fire and movement of the Holy Spirit, into Jesus’ Church for these times.

I have written about our “VUCA world” in previous communications. VUCA stands for *volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous*. The concept and acronym came about at the end of the Cold War as we navigated living in those changing times. Add to this VUCA world a novel virus that has stopped the entire planet in its tracks, and you have not only a crisis full of chaos and confusion, you also have a grand opportunity to do life differently. And that includes how we “do” and are the Church.

According to public health experts and officials, and well summarized by leadership coach and systems thinker Jake Morrill, there are now four realities we can, and must, expect:

- a “stop and start society” until fall 2021
- long-lasting economic recession
- climate change and technology continuing to disrupt our lives
- a “hybrid society” (more online and more small groups)

Given those realities, the question we are called to ask ourselves as the Kent UCC is: How does this new reality impact our church and congregational life? Most certainly in these ways:

- Worship, faith formation, and ministry happens online
- Small groups, or what I would like to call “covenant groups”, will be even more vital to our spiritual, mental and congregational health
- Clearly marked and articulated plans are critical to navigating these uncertain times
- Mission is our priority

Our mission, in all the various ways we've named and packaged it, remains to love and transform lives by the grace and guidance of Jesus Christ. What we have to offer is what people most need, especially now as so many of us experience loneliness and social isolation, fear and anxiety, grief and longing for what we have either lost or fear losing, and a sense of great uncertainty or even terror about the future. But *how we engage in that mission* is what will look and feel different. It has to! Our world has changed. The Church has changed. We have changed.

Friends, I believe that we are now experiencing a Second Reformation of the Church.

What is *not* changing is our calling as followers of Jesus to meet the needs of an ever-evolving, VUCA and COVID-19 world—to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, heal the sick, and free the imprisoned. The model is changing—the mission is not.

So let us choose to BECOME THE CHURCH for this time. In this day and age. Not a church of the past, a post-WWII church, or even a church of 2019. I encourage us, no—I beg us—to choose with deep intention, courage and vision, to BECOME THE CHURCH for such a time as this. A church that plants the seeds now for a post-pandemic congregation. A church that plants the seeds now for a post-pandemic world. A church that will be disrupted over the next year and a half, and who will find ways to minister and support and offer compassion and welcome and all the things we do so well, in new and bold ways that continue to transform lives in the name of Christ. The key to achieving our mission is our ability to adapt.

Let us BE THE CHURCH of 2022—taking the long view by envisioning a new and beautiful creation empowered by the Holy Spirit as we trust God to guide and accompany us there.

Your partner in the gospel,
Pastor Amy

Moderator's Message – Jaime Baughman

Greetings, Friends!

I miss seeing you face to face! I miss passing the peace with you in our Sanctuary. I miss hearing our voices raised in song. I miss taking communion together.

And yet, right now, and for the foreseeable future, all those things are potentially dangerous.

In the news are too many stories of congregations eager to worship together again, only to have to reclose their doors due to new outbreaks and even death within their membership – even in churches that took precautions and wore masks and practiced social distancing.

We are fortunate to have the ability to worship via Facebook and YouTube. We are blessed to be able to meet and see one another on Zoom. And yes, there's always good, old-fashioned phone calls to keep us connected.

At our Council meeting on Tuesday, May 26, the following motion was passed:

Following current UCC guidance, as well as the guidance of the Ohio Department of Health, the Kent UCC building remains on Sabbatical until Labor Day, September 7. There will only be two exceptions to the use of the building of Kent UCC:

- 1) A Wedding ceremony of 10 or fewer people*
- 2) A Funeral or Memorial service of 10 or fewer people.*

These events must follow current COVID-19 safety guidelines and be approved by Reverend Amy Gopp.

The use of our building will be reconsidered no later than the August 25 Church Council Meeting. Worship, faith formation, ministry programs and groups shall continue to meet virtually.

I am pleased to report the formation of a Kent UCC COVID-19 Advisory Team that will monitor the pandemic, research and investigate options, and provide recommendations for how and when we come back together again. The team consists of members involved in the healthcare industry, as well as representation from the Property/Safety, Worship and the Arts, and Education ministries. I ask that you hold them up in prayer as they begin this important work for our congregation.

In the meantime, I am overwhelmed at the creative and inspiring ways so many of you have found to continue the work of our church. Keep it up! You are amazing! I thank God for each and every one of you!

Be well!
Jaime Baughman, Moderator

Diaconate Update – Don Bubenzer

Deacons met via Zoom on May 13. It was wonderful to see each other, many for the first time in six weeks. The reports on contacts and even, through the window, visits with members of our community were heartening. Bringing vitality to our spiritual lives is a responsibility and opportunity for all within our Kent UCC community. We discussed various ways that we might enhance the spiritual lives of all. We are looking for ways of forming small “covenant groups” that would help provide a sense of care and belonging to all in our faith community. We too realize that there are many experiencing grief at this time. There are those who have lost loved ones and been unable to celebrate their life and mourn their loss. Some of us are mourning the loss of a way of life that is dear to us. We also discussed ways we might enhance our sense of being members of the Body of Christ through providing shared ways of experiencing communion.

We want to remind you that if you would like to have the daily experience of a devotional reading, there are devotionals in the box outside the door by the chapel. If you would like to have a devotional delivered to you, do not hesitate to contact us. If you are aware of the need of financial assistance for a member of our church or larger community, please get in contact with us. Finally, we have designated fifth Sundays as a special time to receive offerings for our

Congregational and Community Assistance Fund. May is a month with five Sundays, and we would greatly appreciate your remembrance of the fund through a gift to the church office or via [the "Give" button](#) on our new website. Please feel free to contact a Deacon via Don Bubenzer, (330) 671-1015 or dbubenze@kent.edu, or via Pastor Amy, PastorAmy@KentUCC.org. Know that you are loved by God and by members of our community.

Are You Engaged?

A few weeks ago our church rolled out our new online directory called "Engage." You can think of it as almost a Facebook for our church. When you sign up for an account, you can access the online directory, update your own profile with a picture of yourself, change your address, phone numbers, and change your email address. You can also access the groups you belong to and can communicate with other members/regular attendees via this platform. You will also be able to set up your online giving through this new platform as well. We highly encourage everyone to set up an automatic gift through Engage. To sign up, go to this link:

<https://engage.suran.com/kent-ucc/s/login>

You will see the login screen as well as where to create an account (circled). If you are a member, you are already in our database. Please use the email address the church office has. If you do not know which one we have, please contact Leah at: LDavis@kentucc.org and she will provide this information for you so that you can create your account.

We are so happy to offer this as a new tool for us to stay connected during this uncertain time.

If you need any assistance setting up an account, or have any other questions regarding Engage, please contact Leah and she will be happy to assist you.

If you have questions about online giving through Engage, your old Vanco account, or any other financial questions, please contact Cheri at: CMikula@kentucc.org

A Pastoral Letter from Our UCC Living Water Association General Minister



The Armor of Love

FROM NAYIRI KARJIAN ASSOCIATION GENERAL MINISTER | MAY 14, 2020

As a child I would chuckle at the answer to the simple questions – How are you, Grandma? Sighing Grandmas would answer - What can I say child? This life is a war and we are the soldiers.

This was the answer one received from all Armenian Grandmas. They had all survived the Genocide, they had walked the death march, lived through homelessness, starvation, violence, rape; and they had lived as refugees in exile. No wonder Life was a battle, a fight, a war and they were the soldiers.

Growing up in the Middle East I too lived through a few wars. War was our experience and reality but it was not our cultural lens through which we saw the world.

I write this aware that for many people around the world life feels like a war every day. Struggling to feed families, trying to make ends meet, living as ethnic minorities, living while black, living with any kind of violence, all feel like fighting an uphill battle, a war. I write also aware that the Apostle Paul uses the same image of war, combat and armor to describe the life of faith.

When I arrived in the US I discovered that war was somewhat of a cultural lens even for those who were comfortable and privileged. It seemed many social issues were to be combatted like war – the war on drugs, war on poverty, war on crime, war on cancer, even language wars and culture wars, etc... In addition, many of my friends seemed afraid of life's uncertainties and surprises. And I wondered—when has life been certain anyway? Life is always full of surprises. Life's future is always unknown.

I ponder this question still - why, in a land of peace and plenty, would the lens through which the comfortable see the world be one of war? I continue wondering as the COVID 19 experience is referred to as a war as well.

I suggest that the prism of war through which we see the world is not helpful. The perspective makes an enemy of life, as if life is a cruel foe to be fought and defeated. It turns us into victims, powerless and impotent, who fight yet are unable to win, for humans cannot win over nature. It takes away the joy of walking life as a journey, appreciating its simplicity and complexity, ready to embrace all its moments with openness and a sense of adventure. And, it makes of us a people who love guns so we can protect ourselves. I have always wondered "protect ourselves" from what?

I suggest that Life is not our enemy but our friend. Life gives us life. I suggest that life is not a war, a battle to be won but a gift to be experienced and lived. I suggest that the prism of war be transformed into a prism of courage and peace, and that social issues and natural disasters cannot be won by war, violence and fighting; they can only be healed by collaboration, cooperation and just relationships.

It is interesting that the root of the word *war* from old German means to *confuse and perplex*. Perhaps that is why those in power like wars – to confuse and perplex their people.

We, a people of faith are not military soldiers nor are we powerless victims. We are victors in courage and peace. For, we walk in the path of Jesus who himself was victimized but was never a victim, whose crucifixion was turned to resurrection so that we too can have life and have it abundantly.

Those of us who have comfort and privilege should never forget or stop in transforming the lens of war t a lens of cooperation, right relationship, justice, peace and wellbeing for all. And all means ALL.

PS. Put on Love. Continue to wear face masks!

A Pastoral Letter to UCC Congregations in the Heartland (Ohio) Conference Regarding COVID 19 and Congregational Worship

Dear Friends in Christ,

The COVID 19 road is a long one. We recognize that this journey is requiring extraordinary energy, innovation, and patience. Given the recent re-opening plans that are being engaged at the state level in Ohio, West Virginia, and Kentucky, we have been asked by a number of you for guidance about when to re-engage in-person worship. We acknowledge that each congregation has the authority and responsibility to discern what will constitute a safe environment for all as re-gathering is considered. We also recognize there are different contexts that may nuance the timing of any particular congregation's re-engagement with in-person worship.

Unlike our previous pastoral letters where we offered counsel about not worshipping prior to a specific date, we realize a more nuanced approach, based on science, must be the guide at this point in time.

A key threshold for initial consideration about re-engaging in-person worship that we found in documents from throughout the country is **14 consecutive days of decline in COVID 19 cases**. This information is updated daily at the following websites: [Ohio](#), [West Virginia](#), and [Kentucky](#). These sites will give you information by state. However, being in touch with your local county health department will give a more nuanced picture of COVID 19's trajectory in your particular area. A directory of all local health departments nationwide may be accessed by clicking [here](#).

Of course, this threshold alone should not be your only consideration. There are many protocols that need to guide a decision to re-engage in-person worship including such things:

- Size of the sanctuary - compared to the number of people worshipping and whether this ratio can safely assure physical distancing of six feet or more.
- The average age of your members
- Cleaning and sterilizing plans
- Face masks - Will masks be made available for those who arrive without a mask? There are many other considerations.

An exhaustive check-list of re-engagement protocols may be found by clicking on this [link](#). We are thankful for the work of Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel, Conference Minister of the Missouri Mid-South Conference for her thorough research and plan which is the basis of what we share.

As you review that plan, you will note that there are various stages described beginning with a very small number of people gathering and growing over time to a larger number. A summary chart of the re-engagement process can be found at the end of the document.

Full re-engagement will likely only be safe once a vaccine is widely available.

To better understand how COVID 19 spreads and the risks for gathering in person, we offer an article by the immunologist, Professor Erin Bromage, entitled “The Risks - Know Them - Avoid Them” which may be found by clicking [here](#). A video offered by a United Methodist Pastor from West Virginia further highlights the considerations and challenges of in-person worship. It may be found by clicking [here](#).

We realize that this kind of discernment is challenging, given the fact that much of the rest of the world seems to be getting back to life much more quickly. However, the unique quality of interpersonal touch and the close physical proximity around which many of our worship practices are shaped demands special care and a much more cautious strategy for the safety and well-being of our faith communities.

As always we are glad to discuss your strategies around in-person worship and be of support to you. We hold you in our prayers and give thanks to God for the love which guides our thoughtful reflection in this important process of discernment.

Blessings on you!

Faith Formation News – Kim Nagy

There is, indeed, beauty in simplicity. When the church staff started working from home as the pandemic situation unfolded, I went into survival mode. I asked myself: How do I continue to make faith formation activities accessible to people of all ages when we cannot meet at church? Immediately, I began to curate resources, send emails, make videos, and set up Zoom calls. But now that we find ourselves nearly three months into a stay-at-home order, I must admit I’m getting tired of all the curating, email sending, and Zooming, and I know many of you are as well.

This summer, I have assembled booklets for our families called, “Find Your Slow Summer.” It is from SALT Project and packed with a menu of ideas to slow down and cultivate faith in a slower summer. I’m not sure if SALT Project began working on this resource before or after the pandemic came to the United States, but it is perfect for a summer where events have been cancelled, pools and playgrounds have been closed, and screens will be put away for a *long* time. If you want to join us in embracing the simplicity of a slow summer, please reach out to me, and I’ll email you a booklet or drop one in the mail.

In this season, faith formation doesn’t have to be the “traditional” Sunday school lesson or book study. In this season, faith formation can be packing the family up to take a hike and read a few Psalms when you sit down mid-way for a picnic lunch. Or it could be toasting marshmallows over a backyard fire pit while telling your favorite stories. Or it could be blowing bubbles and saying a prayer after each one. In this season, let us embrace faith formation in all its simplicity.

Confirmation

Our 2019-2020 Confirmation class wrapped up on Sunday, May 24! Our students read their Statements of Faith and shared what they've learned this year. We will celebrate the Rite of Confirmation during worship in September. In the meantime, we celebrate the journey of our Confirmation students, their parents, and their mentors:

Ryan Rickelman, son of Amy & Marty Rickelman (Sam Madden, mentor)

Grant Smith, son of Tina Smith (Kirk Gordon, mentor)

Kathryn Mudrak, daughter of Pam Mudrak & BJ Lackey (Sarah Ketchum, mentor)

Ethan Wills, son of Jeanie & Jason Wills (Ralph Kletzien, mentor)

Vacation Bible School

We are currently surveying our parents and families to see what the interest and energy level is around holding a Virtual Bible School this summer. Stay tuned for more information, and thank you for your patience!

Summer Camp

Introducing Camp 2.0! Our United Church of Christ camp in Ohio, Temples Hills, has suspended in-person camps for the summer, but they have readjusted to go virtual completely FREE of charge! Campers who register will receive a box of supplies in the mail for their camping week and will be able to participate virtually with other campers online. There's something for everyone! Check it out at heartlanducc.org by clicking the "Get Involved!" tab and heading to the Summer Camp 2.0 Homepage.

Adult Mission Trip

Plans for our adult mission trips have been postponed at this time. To remain in-the-know about adult trips to Pittsburgh, New York City, and the US-Mexico border, email Kim Nagy to be added to the contact list.

United Christian Ministries

Kent State University may have sent students home in March, but our campus ministry continued to offer vital support to students long after the last student left campus. UCM, United Christian Ministries, is the *only* denominational-affiliated campus ministry at Kent State; all other campus ministries are non-denominational or parachurch organizations. As a result, UCM is also the only LGBTQ+ affirming campus ministry at Kent State, welcoming students of all sexual orientations and allies. As many of you know, this spiritual support system proves significantly important to the LGBTQ+ community.

We are proud to call UCM our campus ministry and recommend our college students to them during the school year for fellowship, Bible study, service projects, interfaith relationship building, and social justice discussions. Rev. Lauren Odell-Scott and Minister Jodi Stillisano have offered online gatherings and support over the phone to students during these pandemic months, and we thank them for their continued dedication to ministering to young adults in this strange time. To learn more about UCM, visit myucm.org.

Hospitality and Membership Update – Eileen West and Gayle Wall

We thank everyone who contributed or participated in our “Who Knew” church family activity/game. There were so many fun/unusual/interesting facts that we were able to find out about each other. Hopefully in the near future we will be able to talk with one another in person to get the background stories! The game was challenging, and a few people reported their scores. Sue and John Hetrick reported a score of 15 on the adult version. That was the highest score noted. If anyone had a higher score ...let us know!!

The Hospitality and Membership Committee is meeting (via Zoom) to discuss innovative ways to reach out to our congregation during these challenging times. In the meantime, we extend a warm greeting to all and encourage you to be safe.

Outreach News – Terri Silver

Our Outreach Ministry has been supporting our crucial community agencies with assistance during this time. Brenda Schneider has agreed to serve on the Kent Social Services Board, providing us with a liaison to their ongoing needs. We have sent several donations to Kent Social Services and Safer Futures and added most recently, the Akron Canton Food Bank. Each of these provides life supporting services to the most needy. Kent UCC continues to Be The Church!

Strengthen the Church Special Offering Received May 31 and June 7

The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

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.

Donations for Strengthen the Church will be requested Sundays May 31 and June 7. Please give online or by sending a check to the church. Either way, please designate your gift as being for Strengthen the Church. Thank you!

Community Outreach Meal Update – Gayle Wall

We are continuing to serve our third Sunday community meal via to-go meals, with the help of a regular group of members who prepare parts of the meal at home. In June, the Lohmans will be contributing pulled pork as our main entrée. June will mark the fourth month we've served the meal in this way, and we have observed declining numbers as the months have passed. We think this shows that for some attendees, the social experience may be more important than the actual meal. We do plan to promote the meal more widely to make sure that folks know that it is continuing. Thanks for your ongoing support.

Stewardship News - Karen Carmany

The restrictions placed on us because of COVID-19 prevent us from coming together as we would normally do in a crisis situation. We have been forced to do things in a different way...online worship services, Zoom meetings, and new electronic giving apps. How can we still

be faithful stewards of God's gifts while staying at home and social distancing? We are able to be faithful to God because God is faithful to us first. We respond to God's love through caring for everything that God has entrusted to us.

The members of our ministry would like to **THANK YOU** for your continuing donations of time, talent, and treasure during these very uncertain times. **We** continue to *be the church* and answer the needs of individuals and our community through your generosity.

God's blessings to all. Be safe and stay healthy.

Stephen Ministry – Sue Otterson



A caring relationship between a Stephen Minister and a Care Receiver usually lasts a year, sometimes more or less, with weekly meetings between the two. Right now, our Stephen Ministers are generally doing what we call “tele-care” via phone, text, and sometimes using FaceTime or Zoom platforms to try to stay in touch face to face as much as possible. If you find yourself needing

just to chat with someone, and are not wanting, at this time, to dive into a whole year of care, we are still here for you. Please reach out to me or to Pastor Amy.

Social Justice and Advocacy Ministry: Poor People's Campaign June 20

If we were not in the midst of this pandemic, you'd have been hearing more about the Poor People's Campaign and the March on Washington that was planned for June 20. A Portage County rally was planned for that date.

Instead, the Poor People's Campaign will still be held June 20, but it has gone digital! Kent UCC is a member of the Kent InterFaith Alliance for Racial Reconciliation and Justice (KIFA), which will be joining the Poor People's Campaign as a mobilizing partner.

Across the country, people are coming together to demand that the 140 million poor and low-income people in our nation — from every race, creed, gender, sexuality, and place — are no longer ignored, dismissed, or pushed to the margins of our political and social agenda.

The Poor People's Assembly and Moral March on Washington will be a historic, generationally transformative digital event. Across the internet and the airwaves, we will drive the vision and agenda of our communities into the heart of the national narrative.

Since numbers are politically important, people are asked to register online early. The goal is to get 100,000 people registered with a suggested optional donation of \$5 for individuals to cover broadcast expenses.

[Join with us by registering for June 20, 2020](#) and share the news with others. Contact Barb Hanniford at bhanniford@neo.rr.com or (330) 673-3441 for more information.

PFLAG Meeting Suspended

Due to all church activities being cancelled, there will be no meeting in June.

Adult Small Groups

We have several small groups that are a great way to build meaningful relationships and have fun! Given the virus outbreak, our groups will not meet in person in June, although Square One is meeting via Zoom the first Saturday of each month. Look for future meetings for our women's fellowship groups, men's breakfasts, Men Baking Bread, book group, Bagels and Books, Mahjong, yoga, and more. We will all be so glad when it's safe to resume our gatherings!

Youth Group News – Kim Nagy

J-Walkers

J-Walkers met on Zoom on May 3, 17, and 31. On May 3, they played, "Where in the World?" Kim put significant Google map locations on the screen, and participants were supposed to guess where in the world they were located! On May 17, their Zoom game was a quiz: "What's Behind the Mask?" Natalie Roeger won that game and received a no-contact delivery of Insomnia Cookies to her doorstep. The group has been working through the "Slowing" devotional and talking about how we can find and experience God in these slower days. The group said, "See you on down the road!" to their 8th grade friends on May 31, as they will become members of UYF in the fall. We can't wait to welcome next year's 6th graders into our group! Stay tuned for one or two summer activities that can be done with physical distance.

United Youth Force

United Youth Force met over Zoom throughout the month of May. During their May 3 gathering, they checked-in with each other and played the "Where in the World" virtual game with Google Maps. On May 17, we celebrated our active UYF seniors with memories and words of encouragement from teachers and parents. It was a memorable experience for all involved! Alumni UYF members from recent years joined us on May 24 for a quiz night.

UYF's summer mission trip to Washington, D.C., was cancelled, but activities *are* being planned for a mission experience June 7-13. We will listen to speakers doing amazing work in the world and participate in our usual mission trip activities, including officer elections, secret friends, paper plate awards, and quote books.

Stay tuned for one or two summer activities that can be done with physical distance!

"Church" Responders Needed

Are you certified for First Aid, CPR, AED, and/or using a fire extinguisher? Would you like to learn? Kent UCC is looking for anyone who is currently certified and/or willing to be certified in First Aid/First Responder, CPR, AED or fire extinguisher use in the unlikely case there is an emergency during a church event. If you're interested in participating, please contact Jim Dunlap @ beaches4me3@gmail.com.

Need Help Getting the WORD Out!

Would you like to help or learn more about how the KUCC communicates and markets itself to the congregation and broader community? Then the KUCC Marketing & Communications

Committee would love to hear from you! If you're interested in participating or learning more, please contact Scott Baughman @ scbaughman1@gmail.com.

The Census: Please Respond!



Responses to the 2020 Census shape decisions about how billions of dollars in federal funds flow into communities each year for the next 10 years for critical services. Health care, emergency response, schools and education programs, and roads and bridges are all impacted by the 2020 Census. The COVID-19 pandemic underscores the importance of census data and census participation. Counting everyone living in a community helps community leaders plan for the future.

Census results inform planning and funding decisions for communities for critical public services. These services include:

- Hospitals, health clinics, and health care services
- Emergency and disaster response, fire, and public safety services
- Schools, education programs, grants, and more
- Roads, bridges, and other public transit and infrastructure projects
- Businesses and economic development
- Housing services and programs for special populations
- Family and social services
- Water and waste management

Treasurer's Report - Kay Hansford

As of May 26, 2020:

Income: \$36,790.12

Expense: \$26,966.25

Balance: \$9,823.87

Please close your Vanco account if you haven't done so already; it will be canceled soon. If you need help opening an Engage account, Cheri or Leah can help you. Email Cheri at cmikula@kentucc.org or Leah at L.Davis@kentucc.org. Please leave them your phone number also.

May 31 marks our 5th Sunday where our loose offering has gone to our Congregational and Community Assistance Fund (CCAF). The purpose of this account is to offer financial assistance to those in need within our Kent UCC faith community and to others in need in the larger Kent area. Some checks are made out directly to utility companies to prevent shut offs or for late rent payments or security deposits. No cash is given directly to an individual. This assistance is available to church members and community members. If you would like to donate to this account please consider a donation through Engage or checks.

Also, one of the church's "5 for 5" offerings occurs this month: Strengthen the Church. This offering is supported by our church each year through Outreach. More information appears in their article.

We are also pleased to inform you that through the help of some of our Finance members and Hometown Bank, we were eligible to obtain a Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan from the Small Businesses Association (SBA). We received this at the end of April and are able to use the money (\$59,100) toward payroll expenses and utilities. We have 8 weeks to spend this--at least 75% for payroll and not more than 25% for utilities. Hopefully, this loan will be forgiven by the SBA. We will find out at the end of the summer. If for some reason it is not, we will need to pay it back at 1% interest beginning in November. Although pledges have been coming as anticipated it is nice to have a cushion at this time. I will report more on this at the end of the summer.

June Birthdays

01 Shannon Kish, Robert Montgomery 02 Annie O'Malley 03 Diane Drewette, Pam Quellhorst
04 Barbara Donaho, Rachelle Roeger 05 Justin Khol 09 Robert Hoefler 11 Connie Craven,
Gladys Wells 13 Tiffany Dunlap, Zoe Walsh 14 Michael Dietz, David Meyer 18 David Bigler,
Kim Galizio, Shane Riddle 19 Olivia Braden 20 Barbara Hanniford 23 Elizabeth Hoover
24 Bruce Hansford, Beth Kloskoski, Ron Moss 25 Carl Bee, Sue Hetrick 26 Lana Bigler,
Gordon Wall 29 Linda Mize 30 Sandra Roeger

Sundays in June

June 7: Trinity Sunday

Sermon by Pastor Amy

10:00 Worship on Facebook and YouTube

June 14: Founders' Day

Sermon by Pastor Amy

10:00 Worship on Facebook and YouTube

June 21: Third Sunday after Pentecost/Father's Day

Sermon by Pastor Amy

10:00 Worship on Facebook and YouTube

June 28: UYF Sunday

Sermon by UYF

10:00 Worship on Facebook and YouTube

How to Reach Us

Kent UCC | 1400 East Main Street | Kent, OH 44240

Phone: 330.673.9534 | Fax: 330.673.8828

office@KentUCC.org | [Facebook @ KentUnitedChurchOfChrist](https://www.facebook.com/KentUnitedChurchOfChrist)

Office Hours: Staff are primarily working from home during Covid-19 crisis. Please note summer office hours are from 9am – 2pm beginning on June 1.

Staff Contacts

Rev. Amy C. Gopp
Senior Minister
PastorAmy@KentUCC.org

Corey Fowler
Director of Music
CFowler1@Kent.edu

Kimberly Nagy
Director of Faith Formation
KNagy@KentUCC.org

Cheri Mikula
Financial Administrator
CMikula@KentUCC.org

Leah Davis
Admin. Assistant
LDavis@KentUCC.org

Don Deibler
Custodian
via Office@KentUCC.org

The Messenger is published monthly and circulated online and in print. Articles and other items for publication in this newsletter should be submitted to the church office by e-mail: office@kentucc.org. The deadline for the July issue is Friday, June 19 at noon.

OUR MISSION:

Enlivened by the grace of Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, Kent United Church of Christ does justice, embraces faithful love, and walks humbly with our God to serve and transform lives, our community and the world. (Micah 6:8)