

THE Messenger

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SPRING EDITION 2024

KENT
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

A PUBLICATION OF KENT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Up to Something Good

The Rev. Amy Gopp, senior minister

This Lent, we committed to getting “up to something good” rather than giving something up. Whether in our own lives or as a collective, we can choose to love and serve God by loving and serving one another. We can cheer others up, lift up the downtrodden, light up people’s lives, and rise up to meet the needs of our time by trusting in God’s power to empower us.

In these difficult and divisive times, we are called to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Our children have been up to something good when they decorated countless brown bags for Have a Heart Sunday. They collected over 80 bags of canned goods and other non-perishable foods from our congregation! Members of our Outreach Ministry then delivered them to our partner, Kent Social Services, to help feed those who are food-insecure in our community.



Becky Dunlap, Co-Chair of the Christian Education Ministry, organized a movie afternoon for our children so they could watch the Pixar animated film “Up” as a group. The kids enjoyed pizza, juice boxes, and popcorn as they watched the film,

spread out on the floor with their blankets, laughed with each other, and learned more about what it means to be up to something good for God.

The Search Committee for Associate Minister for Faith Formation has been up to something good for some time now! This hard-working group has been a shining example of faith, determination, discernment, and resourcefulness. Their efforts have brought forth a marvelous candidate!

The UYF, our high school youth group, is busy preparing for their service trip to the Gulf Coast so they can be up to something good for those rebuilding their lives after disaster and the long-term impact of poverty.

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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)

Up to Something Good continued

Every Sunday evening, they meet to explore questions of faith, service, and the current state of our world. They recently met with Pastor Amy to “plaster the pastor” with anonymous questions, asking anything they wanted about faith and life.

Our Outreach Ministry is busy building yet another home with Habitat for Humanity for a local family. Many volunteers from our congregation have dedicated a Saturday to work on the house or provide lunches for those working. Side by side with other area churches, we are up to something good not only for the family in need of a home, but also by collaborating ecumenically.

The Hospitality and Membership Committee has been up to something good by organizing small group suppers! After two successful Saturday evenings in one another's homes, the next meal will be on April 20. This “Spring Fling” is another opportunity to get to know one another better, spend time in our homes, and commune with each other over a meal, conversation, and laughter.

Our mental health ministry has introduced a new support group led by Barb and Rich Werstler for those coping with a loved one's substance abuse journey. This support group is safe and confidential and open to anyone needing support and understanding to share experiences, struggles, and victories. As a WISE congregation, we are truly up to something good by ensuring Kent UCC is a stigma-free, welcoming, inclusive, supportive, and engaged space.

The Green Team is relentless in its efforts to save our planet-home. They have organized a new task force to look at all aspects of our congregational life to ensure we are green in every way. Soon we will become an official Creation Justice Church!

Throughout this season of Lent, we have walked more closely with Jesus. Many have gathered on Wednesday evenings to explore prayer practices to enrich our spiritual lives and relationship with God. Reading scripture, reflecting on God's presence throughout our days, and praying in color have offered new avenues to strengthening our faith and sustaining our capacity to be up to something good for God.

Our Social Justice Team brought us Bobby Jo Valentine in concert as yet another way to encounter God—through music. It was a heartwarming and spirit-lifting evening that inspired us all to get up to something good.

In a bad news world full of heartache, division, violence, suffering, and injustice, may we choose to get up to something good in the name of Christ. We are people of the Good News with a message countless long to hear and a mission that transforms lives, communities, and the world. Let us not succumb to despair and lose hope but rather continue to dedicate ourselves to being up to something good for the Kin-dom of God!



Engaged Christianity *by Al Barber, moderator*

Father Richard Rohr is a Franciscan Friar and ecumenical teacher. He is the founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation (CAC) in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Father Richard teaches how God's grace guides us to our birthright as beings made of Divine Love. Brian McLaren serves as the CAC Dean of Faculty and has identified the theme for the 2024 Daily Meditations as Radical Resilience.

“Christianity has become for many people an evacuation plan (how to get your soul out of earth into heaven) rather than a transformation plan (how to help God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven). We're on a quest to find out how to have an engaged expression of deep spiritual life that makes a difference in a world on fire.”

<https://cac.org/daily-meditations/>

So what is meant by Engaged Christianity? Attending church on Sunday morning is a start, a good start. Spending time with other believers in community, learning, prayer, and shared love helps us to find God within. But having found God in our lives, we are called to share God's grace and love with others. Notice the action verbs in our Mission Statement:

Continued on p.3

Engaged Christianity *continued*

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)

Does justice, embraces faithful love, and walks humbly. These are all in the present tense and imply action i.e. doing something.

Our focus in our church and personal lives should be to live out this mission. How? Find one or more personal ministries and engage in Christian action. Every year our nominating committee works hard to find members willing and able to serve on our various ministries and committees. We are very fortunate that every year many of our members say yes.

But what if your busy life does not allow you to make such a commitment? Consider volunteering for a team or single activity during the church year. We have many opportunities including the Green Team for the environment, Safety Team, WISE team serving those with mental health challenges, rummage sale, church service participant, prayer partner, work with our children, Community Meal, and Habitat Build to name a few.

Bring your time and talents to help grow and sustain our church and our community. Be an Engaged Christian. Live your passions. Do justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with your God.

Interested in doing? Talk with me on Sunday morning or send me a note at: albertbarber@gmail.com.

Coming to our Neighborhood – A New Traffic Circle

by Kirk Gordon, property & Al Barber, moderator

As you may have heard, the City of Kent will begin construction of two traffic circles on East Main Street starting in 2025. One of these will incorporate Horning Road and Overlook Drive. Horning Road will be moved to the West and the current stop light at Horning and East Main will be eliminated. The Property Committee has been working closely with the agent for the City for several months to understand the process and assure that our compensation is adequate.



Our front entrance from Horning Road will not change, but the exit to Horning Road by the current stop light will be eliminated. A new road will be constructed on the former Horning Road lane closest to our church and will serve as our exit back to Horning Road.

We will be selling approximately 0.142 acres of property primarily along East Main Street to the city and also providing them with two temporary easements related to the construction.

The City will provide compensation to the church totaling \$132,710 which includes \$59,445 for our sign which must be removed as part of the construction. We will then need to decide how and where to replace the signage for the church.

After review and approval of Council, the sales contract with the City will be put to a vote of the congregation at the special congregational meeting on Sunday, March 17 after worship.

More to follow.

It's Spring at Kent UCC— Annual Spring Clean-up

Our annual spring-clean up of the church grounds will be Saturday, April 20 from 9-11am. Please bring your rakes, battery-powered lawncare equipment, and other yard clean-up necessities and join us for a morning of fun and fellowship. Rain date will be April 27.





UYF Plans Service Trip to Gulf Coast

Always adaptive, our UYF has had to change their plans this summer due to an organizational restructuring at Blue Theology in California. They hope to be able to go to California in the next year or so. Quick-thinking and resourceful, the youth discerned that they'd like to go to New Orleans and the Gulf Coast. It just so happens that we have a UCC mission station in Biloxi, Mississippi, Back Bay Mission!

Back Bay Mission's mission is to strengthen neighborhoods, seek justice, and transform lives. Through ministries like their education and empowerment programs and the housing rehabilitation program, they strengthen neighborhoods hard-hit by severe weather and poverty. Since Hurricane Katrina, Back Bay Mission has helped rebuild the Mississippi Gulf Coast. They also focus on justice-making by advocating on behalf of marginalized people in their community.

The UYF will embark on an exciting journey this June when they make their way to Biloxi, New Orleans, and other sites along our Gulf Coast. They live their faith by serving, building relationships, and caring for creation. Thank you in advance for your ongoing support, love, and investment in our youth!

United Youth Fellowship (UYF)

by Dan Mothersbaugh

Hello Church Family.

The UYF hopes that everyone is enjoying the start of 2024!!

The UYF continues to grow stronger and closer as a group. This group works so well together. In January, we visited Temple Hills. We played cards, went on night hikes, went on a day hike, played the game camouflage in the woods, made homemade pizza, went tubing at Snow Trails Ski Resort, played grogg, air hockey, and enjoyed each other's company. Everyone had so much fun!!

In the month of February, and for the second February in a row, the UYF led the Community Meal efforts. We served pizza, salad, and chili. It was so rewarding! Thanks to all of you that assisted with your time and the crocks of chili. There were no leftovers!!

The UYF is currently rolling out our fundraising and event schedule. Some of the highlights include, the Soup-er Bowl soup in a jar fundraiser, an Easter Egg hunt after Easter Sunday worship, the crepe coffee hour, the Talent Show in April, and the Silent Auction in June.

Thanks again for all of your support! ~ The United Youth Fellowship!!!



SAVE THE DATE

SPRING 2024 STUDENT FUNDRAISER

**SUNDAY, APRIL 14
2:00-4:00 PM**

**Suggested Donation
\$25.00
per person**

KENT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (1400 E. MAIN ST.)

GATHER FOR FELLOWSHIP AND DESSERTS

- Join us in Van Meter Hall at the Kent United Church of Christ (1400 E. Main St.) at 2:00
- Enjoy our famous UCM cakes and light refreshments.

HEAR FROM CURRENT STAFF & STUDENTS

- We will have a brief presentation from UCM and Kappa Phi students about campus ministry and student life at KSU today!
- Connect with Alumni and other UCM supporters.

JOIN A WALKING TOUR OF CAMPUS

- Tour will leave the UCC around 3:00.
- Visit the Student Memorial Garden, Student Center and Library and chalk words of encouragement for the students.
- Dress for the weather with good walking shoes.
- Limited carpool to campus.

RSVP BY EMAIL AND PAY AT THE DOOR OR MAKE YOUR DONATION ONLINE

Email **ucm@kent.edu** to let us know you are coming!

Go to **myucm.org** to make online donations.

Mail checks to **UCM, PO Box 646, Kent, OH 44240**



Safety Team Update *by Al Barber*

A Safety Committee was formed in 2018. This committee developed several policies and procedures and issued a final report to Council in December 2020 including establishment of a Safety Team. Four basic priorities for church safety and security were cited including building security, emergency procedures, training, and outdoor lighting.

Earlier this year a Safety Team was formed including Pat Ray, Glenn Hanniford, Gary Harrington, Muriel Breyley (recording secretary), Scott Baughman, Jeff Langstaff, and Al Barber (Chair).

The Safety Team is now focusing on recruiting church members to serve on this ministry team. Jeff Langstaff and Gary Harrington are new team members. Training of staff and key groups including the Safety Team, ushers, Deacons, Sunday School teachers, youth leaders, church staff, and other interested church members. We met with Jonathan Richeson, Protective Security Advisor, Northeast Ohio Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency on January 31, 2024. He toured the church and provided us with a 53 page Security Assessment through the First Entry (SAFE) Houses of Worship Security Assessment. On Sunday, April 14 at 11:15am, we will provide basic level training in First Aid/CPR/AED provided by Bob Naymik from UH Portage. Another training on church safety and security provided by a representative of FEMA will be announced at a later time. Scott and Pat will be installing a new camera system outside and inside the church tied to a smart phone app for notifications and 2-way communication. We continue to investigate a panic button app to be used in an emergency to alert fire/police without having to call 911. We plan to expand the Safety Team to provide two trained volunteers to monitor the church building during Sunday and special services. We would like to have two trained volunteers to monitor doors and hallways, etc. each Sunday and other times when the sanctuary is used for larger groups. We welcome any church member who would like to join us.

Contact Al Barber at 330-603-0166 (text or voice) or email albertbarber@gmail.com.





Green Team in Action

by Julie and Jimmy Wallace

We are excited to announce the formation of a Sustainability Task Force. Members of this team will begin meeting in the near future to put forth a plan for our church that will lessen our carbon footprint in the coming years. This group will consider our heating and cooling systems with the possibility of adding air conditioning to the sanctuary and fellowship hall but offsetting the expense with solar energy. Better methods of landscaping will be examined.

Efforts to reduce the use of plastics and fossil fuels will be considered. The team will be tasked with assessing how we are doing now with a plan for improvements over the next decade. Frequent reports will be made to the congregation to keep everyone abreast of the progress. The task force will be comprised of several members of the Green Team along with a few other church members who have qualifications with environmental issues, knowledge of our property systems and finances. We are currently putting the finishing touches on this group and will be announcing the team lineup in the near future.

Mark your calendars for our annual Earth Day/Creation Care service, April 21, 2024. We hope to feature our youth extensively in this service as they are the ones we must fight for as the dire environmental situation of our earth does not bode well for their future. We have the power to make changes but need the support of everyone in this congregation and beyond! Join us, not only in this annual service, but in our efforts to bring about positive changes to protect this planet!



Monthly Support Meeting Began March 3

We understand that coping with a loved one's substance abuse journey is often a challenging and isolating experience. To provide a space for support and understanding, we are hosting a monthly meeting for parents and family like you.

When: Every first Sunday of the month

Time: Immediately after the morning church service The First Sunday of the month

Where: Church Lounge.

This meeting is a **safe** and **confidential** environment where you can share your experiences, struggles, and victories. You'll have the opportunity to meet other parents and family who understand what you're going through and to learn from each other's experiences.

Our sessions will include:

- Sharing and listening to personal stories
- Resources for helping your loved one and taking care of yourself

Your presence will not only support your journey but also help others who are in similar situations. Together, we can form a community of strength, hope, and understanding.

Please feel welcome to join us in this journey of healing and support.

This group is supported by the WISE Ministry.





Christian Education is Soaring

by Eileen West

We have been busy in Sunday School learning about Jesus's teachings, parables and miracles in the book of Mark. Epiphany started with us decorating crowns and star cookies. We celebrated the end of Epiphany with a small Mardi Gras celebration enjoying King Cake, Beads and coins. Our children were also busy deco-

rating 100 bags for "Have a Heart Sunday," and in turn, over 80 of those bags were filled with food items and supplies donated by our congregation on Sunday, February 18 and delivered to Kent Social Services, our local food pantry. As Lent began, our children and families were invited to stay after church and watch the movie UP. Pizza, juice boxes, popcorn and comfy blankets and pillows made the movie party a good time. We will focus on the congregation's theme of "UP to Something Good" as we prepare for Easter. New SHINE curriculum materials have been ordered and we look forward to planning fun activities this spring.

Outreach

by Donna Hess

By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another." John 13:35



Our Outreach ministry is up to something good this spring. We continue to look for ways to help and support those living on the margins. In the early months of 2024, we have donated money to Kent Cares, an organization that aids financially-strapped students navigate their college experience. We have also been discussing ways to help the refugee population living in Akron. In 2024, the International Institute of Akron is expecting an additional 500 refugees from countries all over the world. Outreach will be sending \$500 to this organization to help them with household items and food. Other ways of assisting the Institute are still being considered. Connecting with our youth and aiding their faith journey is also important to the Outreach Ministry, so we decided to send \$500 to Will Mahon and the Wider Church in Zimbabwe to use where most needed in supporting his work there.

Outreach's involvement with the Apostle Build in Ravenna continues. Our next build date will be Saturday, April 27 from 9am-2pm. We hope that the family of seven can move into their new home sometime this summer. We are also continuing to volunteer occasionally at Kent Social Services to serve their evening meal. And recently we were able to deliver over 80 "Have a Heart" bags full of groceries and supplies from our generous congregation to Kent Social Services. Kent Social Services is deeply grateful for our congregation's continual support of their organization.

In fulfilling our church's mission of doing justice, embracing faithful love, and walking humbly with our God, Outreach will continue to work with our partners, locally, nationally, and internationally.



What Can You See in the Numbers?

by Bill Hoover, treasurer

Looking at our church's financial statements can sometimes be a challenge. They appear as page after page of rows and columns of numbers. But really all the numbers are simply a way to try and quantify activity, and it's the activity that I see when I look at them. Income and expense statements are like a video of water going over a waterfall. They represent how much water passed by during a period of time (like during January). The activities I see are many. Pledges being fulfilled, sermons and Sunday services, choirs singing, book studies and Christian education, outreach into our community and beyond, care

and maintenance of our facilities for use by many, and so much more. Our balance sheet is just a picture of the waterfall at one instant in time...what resources did we have at that moment.

As a Congregational Church our numbers are an open book to all of our members. If you have questions about what's in them, please contact our Financial Office, or one of our Church Officers. And as always, many thanks for your prayerful and generous support of our ministries and missions in 2024 and beyond.

Meet Kathy Robinson, our new Vice-Moderator - *by Harold Hight*

I sat down with Kathy to get some background on her and her life up to now. Lots of laughs & good memories were shared.

Kathy and her husband, Gary, were married for 45 years and had 3 girls - Brittany, Leah, & Rachel. Kathy taught English and Spanish in Champion for 31 years, and Gary was a counseling psychologist, founding Kent Psychological. He practiced for 34 years until his passing in 2019.

In 1975 they built a house in Champion and submitted the plans to the bank on the back of a brown paper grocery bag!

Kathy grew up in the Catholic church while Gary attended the ***Delightful Evangelical Church*** in Southington! When they moved to Kent, Jill Rees (daughter of John & Judy Rees) invited them to our church where the Rev. Tom Jackson and "Charlie Church Mouse" made them feel like Kent UCC was the place to grow and raise their family.

Kathy has served our church in many ways including Fellowship, Diaconate, Rummage Sale, Clerk of Council and Education. She taught Sunday school & VBS and was Director of Christian Education for 11 years after retiring from teaching.

What activities has she liked best? The camaraderie of the rummage sale and running the book room might top the current list, but teaching church school and VBS is right up there too. There were also the all church mission trips to Pipestem, West Va. with the whole Robinson clan.

What would Kathy like to see for the future of Kent UCC?

Not only are the children important but she would like more opportunities to nourish and care for our older members. Kathy also sees our Green Team as an important key to the future along with finding a new associate pastor to strengthen our leadership team.

Fun Facts! Kathy was valedictorian of Lumen Cordium HS in Bedford. She's quite well traveled too. As a teacher Kathy took students to Europe. She has also been to the Pyramids of the Sun & Moon, the Great Aztec Pyramid of Tenochtitlan, the Mayan site of Chichen Itza in the Yucatan and of course, Machu Picchu in Peru!!

If you don't know Kathy, it's time that you should!





In Deepest Sympathy

It is with deep sadness that we share the news that the Reverend Steven Protzman, Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent, died in the hospital following an unrelated complication after surgery. Rev. Protzman was an active member of the Kent Interfaith Alliance for Racial Justice and Reconciliation (KIFA), a community leader, and a close colleague of Pastor Amy's and ours as progressive Christian congregations. Steve was committed to ecumenical relations and always participated in collaborative worship services and events. His installation was held in our sanctuary when he began his ministry in Kent.

A celebration of Steven's life will be held later this spring. [His obituary is available](#) on the Bissler Funeral Home website.

Bobby Jo Valentine Concert on March 13

Kent UCC had the pleasure of welcoming Oregon-based, heart-opening, award-winning folk/pop artist, Bobby Jo Valentine to come play a concert at our church. We had a lively crowd of just under 100 people who enjoyed the evening. We raised almost \$600 for our social justice committee to continue important work throughout the year. Everyone was touched by Bobby Jo's message and music.



Save the Date: Third Annual Blues and BBQ

The Third Annual Blues & BBQ returns! The Social Justice Ministry is hosting Blues & BBQ **Sunday, August 4** from 5-8 (food served until 7). The Back Alley Relics will play on and off the entire time. We're hoping for great weather this year so that we can be outside!

All proceeds will go to the Nancy and Bruce Hansford NAACP Scholarship fund. This scholarship is given annually by our church, through NAACP, to deserving young people for future education after high school.

Put the date on your calendar and stay tuned for information to come!



Celebrating our Scouts

Each year on February 8, the Boy Scouts of America celebrates its birthday to recognize the contributions of young people and adults to Scouting. This can be particularly meaningful when the Scout unit itself is chartered by a religious organization, as is the case for Pack 3256, Troop 253 and Troop 7253 with the Kent United Church of Christ. Troop 253, the oldest of Kent UCC's Scouting groups, is 111 years old, having been continuously chartered through Kent UCC for its entire lifespan! Scout Sunday is when Scouts honor the 12th point of the Scout Law: A Scout is Reverent, and give back to their religious communities.

This year, Kent UCC's Scout Sunday was held on February 11. Our own Natalie Roeger delivered the sermon! There were Scout representatives, both youth and their advisors, from all our troops. The benediction at the end of worship was led by many who were once Girl Scouts in our congregation!

After worship we enjoyed a pancake luncheon served and hosted by our Scouts. Proceeds from the luncheon benefited Kent Social Services. We are proud of our Scouts and the troops that call Kent UCC home and see this investment as an important part of our ministry to youth.



Guess Who's Coming to Dinner: Spring Fling

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner SPRING FLING edition will be on Saturday April 27th, 2024 at 6:00 PM. Please mark your calendars! There is a sign up sheet outside the sanctuary. We need hosts, as well as participants, for this fun social/dinner event. Hosts can decide what they want to serve, and guests can offer to bring side dishes or desserts that coordinate with the host if they want (but not absolutely necessary)! We hope to have the biggest number of people participating yet! Please see [Gayle Wall](#) or [Eileen West](#) with questions!



Pictures are from our Fall "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" event.



Wil Mahon Serving in Zimbabwe



Our very own Wil Mahon, son of our member Kathryn Mahon and Scout leader Tom Mahon, is now serving as a Global Ministries short-term volunteer with the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe (UCCZ). We held a commissioning service on January 21 to bless Wil as he departed for this international mission. The Rev. James Semmelroth Darnell from Global Ministries was present to help us commission Wil for service.

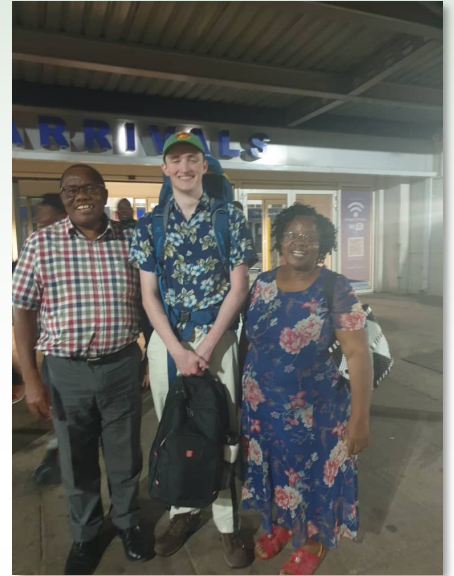
Wil arrived safe and sound after a very long flight! Greeted at the Harare Airport by the General Minister and President, Rev. Matizat and his wife Ketani, Wil is settling into his new life in Africa. He will work and live there until the end of July at which time he will return to Kent and begin his college career (unless he decides to backpack across the continent of Africa, which would not be surprising, if you know Wil!).

The UCCZ celebrated its 130th anniversary this year, having been founded by Congregational missionaries in 1893. Today it consists of 60 local churches, 10 primary

schools, 8 secondary schools, agriculture, horticulture and nursing colleges, two hospitals and two medical clinics. Wil is based in Harare, assisting with youth work in local churches and working alongside the General Minister and President of the UCCZ.

Wil is now helping the UCCZ find the support to construct a brand-new university in the town of Chipinge. Chipinge is in southeastern Zimbabwe, close to the border with Mozambique. There are few institutions of higher education in the Chipinge district and throughout the country, so this is an ambitious and extremely important endeavor on the part of the church. Wil reports that he is honored to be a part of helping them achieve their long-term dream of building a university for rural and poor students.

Please join in prayer for Wil and the UCC in Zimbabwe and for their mission to serve Christ by serving the deep needs of their people.



Barb Donaho's Paraments of Many Colors

by Martha Williams

During the February 18 worship service, we dedicated the new stained-glass banner in our sanctuary. This banner is just the latest of many banners and paraments made by Barbara Donaho that hang in our church. Barb started making banners for the sanctuary about 15 years ago, when she made several heraldic banners. These are the colorful banners with the words "Joy," "Grace," "Give Thanks," and more, which are periodically displayed on a stand at the front of the sanctuary or chapel. Next, she designed and made some new banners for both the Lenten/Easter season, and for Advent. These are the large, rectangular banners that hang on the side walls of the sanctuary during their respective seasons. Barb then set to work updating our paraments, making them in all the colors of the liturgical calendar. Each season's design is different, and as with all the other banners, each is lovingly designed by Barb. Last year, Pastor Amy asked Barb if she could make a banner for the choir loft area, to bring more color to that part of the sanctuary. Barb rose to the occasion yet again, and designed and created the stained-glass banner. We are truly grateful for Barb and her loving gift of her creations. Her sense of color and fabric artistry bring beauty to our worship spaces.



Stewardship

by Crystal Shanley, stewardship chair

Stewardship recently recognized Lori Babbey (pictured here) for her service with our ministry and for her continued dedication to our church. Thank you, Lori, for all you do!!

We kicked the year off by welcoming back chair Crystal Shanley, and ministry members Donna Hess, Jen Case, Jaime Baughman, and Don Williams. We are excited to build on previous years and come up with more ways to share our stewardship message with each of you. If you'd like to join us on the committee, please email Crystal at: crshan88@msn.com.

And lastly, it's with the utmost gratitude and overflowing appreciation that we say THANK YOU to our church members and guests for taking part in our 2023 Stewardship season!! Look forward to unveiling our 2024 theme with you soon!!



Women of the Bible

Q	Z	R	A	H	A	B	C	P	J	E	I	V	N
M	A	R	T	H	A	J	Z	T	X	S	W	V	P
W	D	O	K	S	N	A	O	M	I	T	G	X	I
R	A	C	H	E	L	A	M	V	Z	H	T	J	Q
O	L	L	C	I	A	E	J	P	T	E	S	U	K
H	K	H	Y	X	F	V	V	J	Z	R	A	B	H
D	A	S	I	E	W	E	A	Z	F	B	R	V	K
E	Y	F	E	G	Z	X	S	J	S	X	A	W	R
B	X	M	D	H	L	M	J	V	K	B	H	Z	E
O	Q	I	X	A	E	A	T	R	L	R	C	Z	B
R	G	R	F	N	A	R	F	U	R	S	C	A	E
A	I	I	E	N	H	Y	Z	T	J	V	D	E	K
H	Y	A	G	A	J	O	C	H	E	B	E	D	A
N	N	M	V	H	M	S	W	N	P	L	J	U	H

JOCHEBED	EVE	HANNAH
MIRIAM	SARAH	ESTHER
RAHAB	REBEKAH	MARY
DEBORAH	RACHEL	NAOMI
RUTH	LEAH	MARTHA

Prospective Member Orientation Sunday, May 5, 2024



Are you sensing the Spirit's invitation to a deeper relationship with God? Do you feel the Spirit nudging you to become more engaged in the Gospel mission of the Kent UCC? Are you feeling a call to serve our community in the name of Christ? Would you like to make a bigger difference in the world? Do you long to understand more about the Bible and Christian tradition? Are there questions you just want answered, and yearn for a safe space and community of faith in which to ask them?

If you answered yes to any of these questions—or even if they simply piqued your interest—prayerfully consider joining us after worship on Sunday, May 5 for our Prospective Member Orientation.

Senior Minister Amy Gopp and the Hospitality and Membership Committee are eager to meet with you and explore what it may mean for you to become an active member of our congregation and mission. We'll meet in the Chapel kitchen right after the worship service; members of the Hospitality and Membership Committee will meet you in the narthex to accompany you to the Chapel. We will receive new members in worship on Pentecost Sunday, May 19.

Our next orientation will be in the fall of 2024.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

February

2: Jim Silver, Dick Symons 3: Anna Mae Pyle 4: Roger Mize 9: Ruth Saltzman
10: Bruce Moore 11: Scott Baughman, Bentley Wall 13: Marilyn Freeman,
Donna Hess, Ralph Kletzien, Warner Mendenhall, Becky Roberts 14: Nancy Bubenzer
15: Carol Dunlap, Inez Jackson 16: Kathryn Myers, Judy Rees 18: Chloe Wise
19: Mark Polcha 20: Annie Geraghty 21: Kirk Gordon, Carol Horner 23: Art Barbour 25: Daniel Kuntzman, Noel Reeves
26: Paul Braden, Jane Hunter, Robert Kemp 27: Sam Madden 28: Elizabeth Cowperthwaite, Lee Drewette



March

4: Sue Otterson, Rhuna Wall 5: Jeff Lowery, Lydia Lumpkin 7: Stephanie Phillips 8: Steve Luke 11: Audrey Coyne,
Madeleine Gordon, Melissa Polcha, Justin Wallace 12: Phil Otterson 14: Marcus Seifert 15: Debbie Barber,
Heidi Cannon, Paul Sellman 16: Pat Ray 17: Linda Morris 19: Noah Dunlap, Ellen Hardgrove, David Myers
23: Stephen Brown, Daniel Coyne, Sophia Hayden, Wayne Schneider, Laura Smith 25: Emily Hansford 27: Kay Hensel
28: Annie Marie Carro L'Harrigan

April

1: Meghan Dietz, Matt Redman 3: Becky Moyseenko, Linnea Ray 4: Sean Hoover 7: Heidi Bee, Carol Haas
8: Fay Ann Sebaly 9: Leah Bennington 11: Rachel Robinson 13: Carolyn Galizio 15: Judy Mendenhall 16: Lauren Spence
17: Laurie Riddle 20: Rick Wise 22: Devon Dorr 24: Kim Sebaly 26: Joy Ann Leavy 27: Humberto Carro L'Harrigan
28: Amy Rickelman 30: Beth Sucharzewski, John West

KENT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SUNDAY SERVICE
10:00AM
kentucc.org * 330.673.9534



Office Hours:
M-F 9am-4pm

Summer Hours:
9am-2pm

ONLINE WORSHIP/SOCIAL MEDIA



<https://bit.ly/3jVsNX7>



<https://www.facebook.com/KentUnitedChurchOfChrist>

GIVING

We appreciate your gifts to our church to help continue our mission. Did you know that you can also give online? Go to our website and click on the "donate" tab on our homepage. Or use this link: <https://kentucc.org/donate>

You can also bring your offering to church on Sunday morning, or send us a check to: 1400 E. Main Street, Kent, OH 44240

NEED TO CATCH UP?



Watch this week and the previous weeks worship and children's church on our website at: <https://kentucc.org/worship-online>

ONLINE CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

CHANCEL FLOWERS

Do you have an anniversary, birthday, or important date coming up that you would like to commemorate? Donate chancel flowers for our Sunday morning worship service. Contact Sandy Roeger: rroeger@neo.rr.com for more information.

GET IN TOUCH

Do we have your updated information including your email address? We send out weekly updates to let our church family know of current events and resources. Please contact the church office at: office@kentucc.org or call: 330.673.9534 to update your information.

SUGGESTIONS?

Do you have suggestions for the next Messenger, an article you would like to write, or an idea for a column? We'd love to hear from you!

Contact Terri at:
tsilveruccmessenger@gmail.com

GET INVOLVED

Are you interested in joining the church? Would you like to get involved in a ministry or group but don't know who to contact? Would you like to help with events? Would you like to volunteer in the church office?

If you would like more information, please contact the church office at:
office@kentucc.org

Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome at Kent United Church of Christ.

KENT

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

1400 E. Main Street, Kent, OH 44240

Phone: (330) 673-9534

kentucc.org

No matter who you are , or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

*For as the earth brings forth its shoots
and as a garden causes what is sown in
it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause
righteousness and praise to spring up
before all the nations.*

~ Isaiah 61:11

