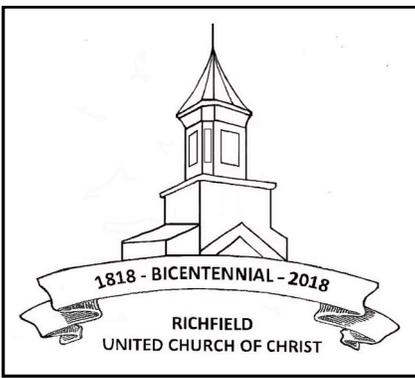


THE COLUMNS

August 2019



RUCC at the Richfield Community Day

Community Day is a wonderful opportunity for our church to let others know what happens at the RUCC. Donate water bottles or candy, help decorate our parade float, participate in the parade or help staff our RUCC booth.

Donate

We plan to hand out candy and small bottles of water at the Community Day parade. Donate a bag of individually wrapped candy (no chocolate, please) or a case of water and help us fill the back pew by August 4.

Community Day Parade Friday, August 9 7pm.

This year the Community Day parade is on Friday, August 9.

Assemble at 6:30 pm and the parade starts at 7:00.

All ages are encouraged to walk the short parade route and hand out candy and water bottles.

Volunteer at our RUCC Booth

We will be sponsoring a booth at the Community Day event, which takes place at Richfield Woods.

Our booth will involve a simple water game for the children.

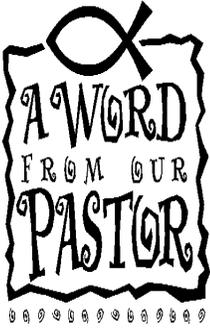
This is a great time to put on your RUCC t-shirts and a smile and let others know of our welcoming nature. Our booth volunteers will work two-hour shifts on Sunday, August 11, from 10:00-9:30.



Prayer In The Park

Sunday, August 25

Richfield Woods Pavilion



Go to church!

Go to church! -
Of all the things I've written and spoken, that is probably the "churchiest" thing so far.

When I was little, we were told to "go to church – or else!" That last part often included punishments that were both short-term and eternal. That certainly motivated people for years. But fear, guilt, threats and condemnation don't motivate me these days. There are better reasons to go to church.

I was inspired to write this article on Sunday, July 15. After church that day I was talking with my wife, Katie. She told me that she felt bad for all the folks who missed church that week. To be clear, Katie herself sometimes misses church. She understands. But then Katie proceeded to tell me the many things people missed, if they stayed home that day.

She said "They missed a powerful sermon you put a lot of work into." Aw shucks, Katie – but she continued. "You know what else they missed? They missed a tearful farewell of the Benedict family, who stood up and described how this church restored their faith when they thought it was gone forever. They missed the moment in the children's sermon when little Erin Murphy brought a smile to every face in the building, and then her little sister, Marley came wandering up the aisle. And they missed the opportunity to welcome a family of four that visited RUCC church for the first time. One person who had been absent due to illness was welcomed back; another shared an upcoming surgery they feared—both found support. They missed great music. They missed a serene meditation. They missed real opportunities to help people in need. They missed hearing a friend tell a powerful life event over coffee. They only missed one Sunday, but they really missed a lot. What's more, the community missed them too."

I couldn't say it any better, Katie.

Every gathering for Sunday worship is a unique event. Like a concert, being there is very different than hearing a recording.

Yeah, you can watch my sermon at home. For that matter, you can watch thousands of others, too. And when you're done, you're still alone – not connected to real people, not gathered in a spiritual family. A virtual community is a diluted substitute for an actual community.

You could choose to drive to church on a Sunday morning, but then park the car and go walk the dog instead of entering church. And you may discover that God is found in the beauty of nature. Brilliant. You wouldn't be the first. So, too, did the writer of Psalm 8, who stepped outside on a star lit night, looked up at the grandeur of it all and wondered, "Who are we? What is our place in all this?"

Can you discover God in the beauty of a perfect beachside sunrise? Yep. Me too. Yay! But here's something really impressive: Can you discover God in the imperfect person in the pew beside you, who's just struggling to get by? Can you discover God in the difficult times, the struggles and your losses? Together, we find God there too.

Can you be inspired by a community that extends through time and space or – better still – can you find a way to be an inspiration? Could you find a kindred spirit in whoever wrote that Psalm 3,000 years ago? It's all about connections. With God, and with one another.

This community has gathered for 200 years in Richfield; 2,000 years since that first Easter. We gather for a reason. We find strength for the journey.

The spiritual life means many things: feed the hungry, serve on boards, help the hurting, teach the children. Do all those important things. But first, go to church. That gathering of faithful fuels the fire, points the way, cheers us on and nourishes the soul.

Don't come out of fear of condemnation. Come because you need this community, and this community needs you.
Go to church! - Rev. John King

August Scriptures

August 4: Scriptures: Colossians 3:1-11 Luke 12:13-21

August 11: Scriptures: Letter to the Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 Luke 12:32-40

August 18: Scriptures: Hebrews 11:29-34, 38 -12:1-2 Luke 12:49-57

August 25: Scriptures: Isaiah 58:9-14 Luke 13:10-21



Moderator's Moment

August 2019

July is almost behind us and our church is as busy as ever. And August will be just as busy. Highlighted in the month's Columns are two events we have been involved with for several years. First up will be the Richfield Community Day on August 11th, with the parade on Friday August 9th. The strong participation we have had shows the community that we are, an active, vital church. If you are available, please come out to participate.

The Prayer in the Park, on Sunday, August 25, with the Brecksville UCC is always a nice service. Those Brecksville folks are very friendly.

Finally, a big thank you to everyone that helped paint the Fellowship Hall. I have not seen it yet, as we have been traveling, but I know that a coat of paint can do wonders.

In prayer with Christ,
Newt Heston

RUSH

Richfield UCC Sunshine Helpers

*Our next workday is
Saturday, August 17*

Please come join the S&A team during our next "RUSH hour" (hee-hee) on Saturday, August 17, at 9:00 am to help us get some of the little things done around the church. We were able to paint the Fellowship Hall in July, and we're looking to get some more items checked off our list. Please bring outdoor tools if the weather is nice as well as any indoor tools you think might help out with tasks such as painting and maintenance. We look forward to seeing you then!

A New Church Directory

Our last church directory was printed in 2015 and this fall we begin the process of creating a new one. Mark your calendars today for individual and family photo sessions (family pets and non-members can participate too) scheduled on

Wednesday, September 25, and Thursday, September 26, from 2:00-8:30 pm.

Beginning in August, committee members will have a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall to schedule your photo session.



Our Church Garden



The harvest from our garden will be put on a table in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings during the summer. *If you have extra harvest from your garden, feel free to bring it in so others can enjoy.*

The cash donations fund our sponsorship of 15-year-old Carolina Florez Zuniga through Children's International. You can view Carolina's picture, read her profile and her latest letter, both on the bulletin board and at the garden table.

Richfield Youth Group

August Activities

Sunday, August 4

We are ushers, greeters, reader, serving coffee hour. Bring a dessert to share.

Stay tuned for the Fall Youth Picnic date, place & time. We will be sending out special invitations to all new 6th graders and welcoming them to youth group.

If you are in grades 6 -12, new to the area, and would like to come join us, please do! Call or text me 330-697-7132, Marilyn Freeman, Youth Director. We would love to have you!

Thank you to all who supported the youth for the Richfield Garage Sale Concessions. We cleared a profit of \$436.

The Youth have had a busy summer!

We served on two different days at Akron Canton Regional Food Bank where we processed enough food and goods to provide 1,683 meals!

We spent an afternoon at Open M where we assisted their grounds manager with lots of weeding! (If you have a garden of any kind this year, you know all the rain makes those weeds grow FAST!)

The youth did gutter cleaning and yard work for one of our church members and we spent a night at the church assisting with the Fellowship Hall painting project.

Save these dates!

The youth group has been busy planning two new events for the coming year.

Sunday, October 6 – after church lunch event –chili cook-off

Get out your best chili recipe and start practicing for our chili cook-off. Any kind of chili is welcome. There will also be hot dogs, salad, and dessert. Watch for more information soon.

Vacation Bible School Friday, August 16



6:00–8:00 pm

*“God’s word is better than gold,
even the finest gold. It is sweeter than any honey,
even the drippings from a honeycomb”
-Psalm 19:10*

Vacation Bible School will take place on Friday, August 16 from 6-8 pm. This year’s theme is the honeybee. Oh, the sweetness of following God’s word — to care for the stranger, to feed the poor, to be kind and generous with our gifts!

All children in preschool—fifth grade are invited to learn more about how honeybees take care of us in the same way God tells us to take care of others. The children will enjoy games, crafts, stories and

Ushers for August

August 4: Youth Group

Lew Monegan Jim Holan J. J. Schweikert

Laura Willis



August Lay Readers

August 4: youth representative

Rachel, Scott, Nolan and Wade Luther

Boards and Council Meetings in August

Tuesday, August 6: Hobbitts Board meets at 7 pm.

Monday, August 12

6:30 pm: The S&A Board

7:00 pm: Christian Ed Board & WPM Board

8:15 pm: Church Council

Board Members Needed

The Personnel Committee is looking for two congregation members to be on the Christian Education Board and one for the Stewardship and Administration Board. Contact Maryke Bard, Mike

Wheeler or Rev. King if you can help by joining one of these church boards.



Book Club

Book Club will not meet until September.

Their September book selection is

"Educated" by Tara Westover. Enjoy your summer reading time.



The Men's Discussion Group

The Men's Discussion Group has been meeting every Wednesday morning from 6:30 to 7:30 for 25 years!

Join us for coffee and conversation.



Featured in the Gathering Room

Gallery

The beautiful watercolor paintings of G. Barbara Johns are now featured in the Gathering Room Gallery.

As a child Barbara admits to never being able to leave home without her crayons. She has always had a

August Birthdays

8/3 Marny Kuczmariski

8/5 Gail Beach

8/5 Karen Larkman

8/5 Ruth Joslyn

8/7 Diana Julien

8/8 Susan DiMassa

8/9 Kathy Hayes

8/9 Virginia Ballinger

8/12 Larry Harsey

8/12 Ian Hackworth

8/12 Alex Hackworth

8/13 Kathy Hakos

8/13 Polly Wheeler

8/14 Mike Wheeler

8/16 Tom Barker

8/17 Lois Eastwood

8/18 Amy Harsey

8/21 Todd Schweikert

8/27 Chris Hayes

8/28 Becky Monegan



August Anniversaries

8/5 Dick & Rosemarie Sprague

8/11 Marianne and Mark Gndt

8/16 Keith and Helen Grabo

8/22 Dan and Janet Marsh

8/28 Joe & Sue Reineck

8/29 Shellie & Will Hart

8/29 Tim & Phyllis Sommer



Our prayers go out to

Ed McDevitt on the recent passing of his mother and his husband, Arthur.



Red Cross Blood Drive

Wednesday, August 14

Richfield United Church of Christ
4340 W. Streetsboro Rd.
Richfield, Ohio 44286

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 4

GATHERING OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

EVERY SUNDAY

8:00 AM Early Worship Service
9:15 AM Sunday school
10:15 AM Worship Service

EVERY WEEK

MON 7:30 PM AA
WED 8:00 PM AA
SAT 8:30 PM AA

WEDNESDAY

6:30 AM MEN'S GROUP

THURSDAY

7:00 PM BELL CHOIR PRACTICE

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August Activities

August 4: Communion / Youth greet, usher and host coffee hour

August 6: Hobbitts Board meets at 7 pm

August 7: Hobbitts Open House 7:30-8:30 pm

August 9: Richfield Community Day Parade 7:00 pm

August 11: Meet the Artist reception following our 10:15 service

Richfield Community Day—Stop by our RUCC Booth at the Richfield Woods

August 12: S&A Board meeting at 6:30 pm

Christian Ed & WPM Board meetings at 7 pm / Council meeting at 8:15

pm

August 14: Red Cross Blood Drive 1-6 pm Fellowship Hall

August 16: Vacation Bible School 6:00—8:00 pm

August 17: Richfield UCC Sunshine Helpers workday 9:00 am

**Richfield United Church
of Christ**

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