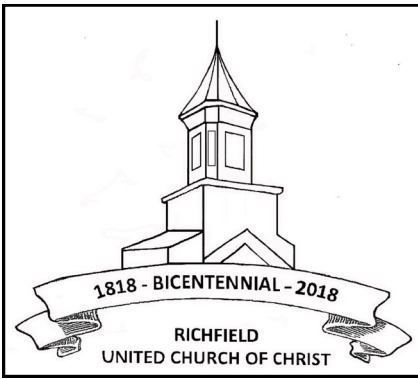


# THE COLUMNS

JUNE 2018



## Richfield Community Garage Sale *Sneak Peek Sale*



If you can't wait until sale day to purchase your treasures, the Mission Group will host a sneak peek opportunity on Friday, June 1 from 7-9 pm. For a \$2 admission fee, you may enjoy coffee and desserts and shop ahead of the crowd.

**Shop at our great location** on Saturday, June 2, purchasing treasures inside and out and snacks or lunch at the Youth Group's kitchen location.

## Vacation Bible School *The Armor of God*

*Friday, June 22 6 pm to 8 pm* *Preschool—5th grade*

Games, crafts and fun! Sign up by June 17th to help us plan for supplies. Adults and youth can join the fun as staff. Contact Sarah Luther or sign up in the Fellowship Hall on the VBS bulletin board display.

## Band Concert and Ice Cream Social

*Thursday, June 28, Featuring the Akron Pops Orchestra*

Bring your lawn chairs and the whole family to share a great evening of music and refreshments. The Akron Pops Orchestra will begin its concert at 7:30 pm in the RUCC parking lot, so come early and find your spot. A delicious selection of pies and desserts, along with ice cream from Country Maid Ice Cream, will complete the evening.



## June and July 200th Celebration Activities



### June Outdoor Worship

We will be having an outdoor worship service at Oviatt Newton Park on June 24, at 10:15 am. The park, located at the corner of Streetsboro and Brecksville roads, is very important in the history of our church. It's the site of our 1832 church and also our 1886 church. We will be worshipping where members of our church worshipped for 118 years; please join us!

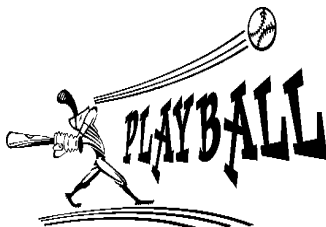
The 8:00 Sunday service will be at RUCC.

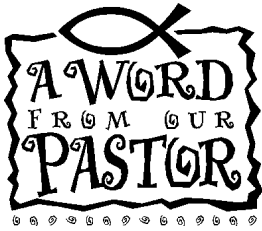
**Akron RubberDucks Baseball Event** **Richfield United Church of Christ Night at Canal Park July 13**

Come enjoy an Akron RubberDucks game at Canal Park in Akron on Friday, July 13, with your church family. Tickets are \$8 and can be purchased online at:

<https://groupmatics.events/event/Richfieldunited>

The Friday evening game, against the Binghamton Rumble Ponies, starts at 7:05 pm.





"Do you teach morality at your church?"

That was the question put to me last month by someone very dear to me. On the surface, the question seems benign; rather ordinary. But it was almost as loaded as

the question put before Jesus in John 8:5 "Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?"

"You see," they told me, "The problem with our country these days is that they don't teach young people morality anymore." Ah, yes. I could see where this was going.

Here was my response: "Of course we teach morality at our church. It is in every sermon, every Sunday School class, every prayer. I suppose there are some churches who don't recognize it as "morality" because we try to focus on the moral values of Jesus."

**Love. Kindness. Inclusion. Peace. Service. Truth.**

Scan the gospels. Look at Jesus words and deeds. These are the moral values Jesus targeted like a laser.

**Feed the hungry. Care for the sick. Welcome the stranger.**

The morality of Jesus seems distant from the "morality" of many religious organizations. An uncle who no longer attends any church told me he was repulsed by what he called "pelvic religions." He explained that he meant religions that seemed overwhelmingly preoccupied with considerations of "pelvic activity" and the ferreting of those they could judge and condemn. That's what some mean by "morality." That's why the question was loaded. Problem is, Jesus has been hijacked by many churches that try to make Jesus appear to say and do things that the Jesus of the Gospels never said or did.

Perhaps we need to save Jesus from the church. Let's return to the Jesus of the gospels. Let's focus on the morality of Jesus.

**Blessed are the poor. Blessed are the hungry. Blessed are those who mourn.**

Socrates complained that young people lacked manners and respect for authority. That was 2,400 years ago. It's a time honored tradition that the older generation complains about the younger – and vice versa. I see, in Jesus, a better way; a more hopeful way.

To paraphrase Liz Gilbert, today's young people are the most sensitive, least violent, least bullying, least racist, least homophobic, most globally minded, most compassionate, most environmentally-minded, socially conscious group of young people this country has ever seen.

Perhaps if we could rediscover and boldly proclaim the moral values that Jesus actually prioritized, we could escape the cycle of perpetually complaining and endlessly fretting about their moral lapses. I know that the moral values of Jesus resonate with those young people, but many of them have given up on finding such a church.

Yes. We teach morality in our church. It is the morality of Jesus.

**Love one another. Do not judge, and you will not be judged. The truth will set you free.**



On May 27th we celebrated the confirmation of

Tristan Bard

Sam Gerber

Amanda Hart

Victor Hart

Oliver Miller

Jessica Shepker

### June Scriptures and Sermon

**June 3:** Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 4: 5-10 Mark 2: 1-12

Sermon: "With a Little Help from My Friends"

**June 10:** Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 4: 13-18 5:1 Mark 3:19-35

Sermon: "The Day Jesus Lost His Mind"

**June 17:** Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 6:1-13 Mark 4:26-34

Sermon: "The Seed Grows"

**June 24:** Scriptures: Ephesians 2:13-22 Matthew 7:24-27

Sermon: "A Solid Foundation"



### Moderator's Moment From a Former Moderator

To: the congregation of the  
Richfield United Church of Christ

From: Carter Wilmot

Some of my thoughts about the bicentennial of our church!

Today, as you gather to celebrate the 200th anniversary of our church, please know that if my age-weary body permitted, I would be there too! I would be in the front row to celebrate this joyous occasion.

For some of you, 200 years might seem like a vast span of time, but let me tell you from the perspective of one who has lived a long, full life. If you consider my family's ties to this church, a big part of these 200 years can be accounted for by people I knew or knew of. In other words, I know what sort of effort and commitment it took for the early generations of this church, and how important this church has been to our community.

The bicentennial celebration is about recognizing the faith and dedication, first of the original 12 people who came together to establish and foster this Church, then also to pay tribute to the generations who preceded us and kept it a place of welcome to meet and celebrate. A place to build relationships that last a lifetime (not the least of these relationships was a group known as the "ball and chain" group, who would gather socially, many good times were had). Also, a place to seek comfort during times of hurt and loss, and finally, as important as any, a place of worship.

The pioneers who gathered on that May day 200 years ago planted the seed and nurtured it. The generations which followed carried on that effort, and in our turn Geffie and I contributed as we were able. Together we participated on church boards, and taught the sixth-grade Sunday School. Geffie joyously tended to the children in the church-sponsored nursery school program. I served as moderator for nine years (three years each with three different pastors). Our tithing to the church was and remains a priority.

It is my hope that this church and our community may know many more centuries of vitality, but this is not a given; it will take energy, commitment and financial support. May those who now take the lead be guided by the same spirit as those first congregation members.

God bless everyone, carry on!

-Carter

### The S&A Board Says Thank you

Thank you to Pieter van der Meer for the care he has given to the RUCC grounds. He is retiring from the task after 24 years of keeping the RUCC grounds looking great and well-cared for.

**Thanks to all** who helped out with the May 5 RUCC clean-up day. Windows and screens were washed, gutters cleaned, garden and playground leaves disposed of, gardens weeded and tilled, spread mulch, pew cushions cleaned and the kitchen was tidied. Also, a crew worked on the Youth Room.

### Youth Room Project Thank You!

A great big huge thank you to Todd Bard and the Adult Mission Trip group for their hard work in replacing the ceiling in the youth room. The dry wall is all up and soon it will be ready to paint. The youth are very excited about the new look for their space and are anticipating that trip to IKEA to add some finishing touches.

### WPM News

Our May collection of green beans and sliced potatoes was a huge success for the Feed My Sheep Soup Kitchen pantry.

Our final count in our friendly competition was:

Piano Side: 110 cans                      Organ Side: 92 cans

The Organ side pews will host coffee hour on a future Sunday this summer. Thank you for your generous support!

### Bake a Pie or Dessert for our Ice Cream Social

The WPM Board is asking for help in making pies and desserts for our annual Band Concert and Ice Cream Social on Thursday, June 28. A sign-up sheet will be available on Sundays during June.

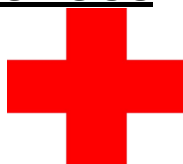
### A Christian Education Board Thank you

The Christian Education Board would like to thank our Sunday school teachers for their service through-out the school year. Our teaching staff this year was Sarah Luther, Becky Monegan, Patty Ellis, Maya Mackeigan-Moore, Todd Bard, Amy Shepker, Bob Ballinger, Marilyn Freeman, Rev. King, Jim Shilling, Brenda Lindsey and Pat Worton.

### Red Cross Blood Drive at RUCC

Wednesday, June 6 1:00-6:00 pm

RUCC Fellowship Hall



# Richfield Youth Group

## June Activities

### Saturday, June 2

Garage Sale Food Booth—all hands on deck to help with our annual fundraiser. Let Marilyn know when you will be there to assist with food prep and sales. Set-up begins at 7:30 am and we are usually cleaning up by 3 pm. 11:00-1:00 is the busy time.

### Sunday, June 3

We are ushers, greeters and Anna is our Reader. Bring a dessert to share and help us serve and clean up Coffee Hour.

### June Mission Trip

If you are in 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade and are interested in joining the 2018 Richfield Mission Team, please let Marilyn Freeman know.

We are scheduled at the North Street Mission, which is a mission of Trinity UCC in Wooster for the week of **June 24 - 30**. The week will start (Sunday) with a RubberDucks game in Akron on our way to Wooster. We will cook and serve breakfast every morning for 60-80 hungry people in the Wooster area, and then we will be sent out into the community for a variety of service opportunities—community gardens, food pantry, Salvation Army, Wilderness Center, Boys & Girls Club, Habitat for Humanity. I am hoping to end the week with some work at Tempel Hills—our Conference Camp, and some time for swimming and a campfire.

### Mission Trip Prayer Partners Needed

If congregation members are interested in writing a few notes of prayer and encouragement to the youth and adults who are making this mission trip journey,

please contact the church office or Marilyn for further instructions.

#### **The Barb Simmons Scholarship**

2018 Scholarship Recipient *Anna Gerber*

#### **The Ruth and Jim Miller Scholarship**

2018 Scholarship Recipient *Megan Shepker*

Megan Shepker is a junior at Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania. She is an exercise science major with an interest in the medical field. She plans to continue her education in either physician's assistant school or nursing school. Megan says in her application, "I want to use my love of healthcare and helping others to make this world a healthier place." Her list of



### Our RUCC Graduates

*Congratulations to all of our high school and college grads.*

#### **Anna Gerber**

Anna graduates from Revere High School. She participated in the Revere Players, where she was the stage manager. She was a member of the Revere Marching Band and Concert Band and a section leader of the Symphonic Band. Anna has been involved with Sunday school and the Youth Group, Bell Choir and a staff member of various children's activities such as Vacation Bible School, Life of Paul and the children's Lenten programs. She will be attending Heidelberg University this fall and plans to study psychology and theatre. Anna says she doesn't have any solid plans yet, but she knows that she wants to help people and stay active in theatre. She is the daughter of Beth and Greg Gerber.

#### **Jeff Jeric**

Jeff graduates from The University of Akron with a Bachelor of Accounting and a Bachelor in Corporate Finance. He was on the Dean's List each semester and graduates Magna Cum Laude. Jeff will work for Key Bank as a credit analyst after graduation. He is the son of Becky and Jeff Jeric and grandson of Janice Scibbe.

#### **Carl Ahlborg**

Carl graduates from The Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Science in Materials Science and Engineering. Carl will be graduating with a minor in Honors Mathematics, Cum Laude, and Honors Research Distinction. During his undergraduate career, he served as the head of his major's student group, the MSE Club. He also served as President of Ultimate at Ohio State, a club for casually playing ultimate Frisbee. Carl worked briefly as a researcher in the math department, and he spent two years researching in the MSE department. Last summer, he worked as an intern with Texas Instruments in Dallas, Texas.

Carl accepted an offer to be an Electronic Warfare Engineer working for SRC Inc. in Dayton, Ohio. SRC is a non-profit defense contractor, and he will be working for them right outside of the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Carl is the son of Nagwa and Kevin Ahlborg.

#### **J.T. Mitchell**

J.T. graduates with a Master of Music degree in baroque flute from the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, Maryland. This past year, J.T. made his debut as a guest artist with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Washington Bach Consort, and Cantate Chamber Singers.

J.T. will begin a Doctor of Musical Arts in Fall 2019. For more information and to hear his flute audio, please visit [johnnytaylorjtmitchell.com](http://johnnytaylorjtmitchell.com). JT is the son of Jennie and Mark Mitchell.

## Ushers for June

June 3: Youth Group

Mark Mitchell, Mary Patrick, Gary Summer, Barb Luther.

## June Lay Readers

June 3: Youth Group representative, Anna Gerber

June 10: Scott Luther

## Lay Readers Summer Sign-up

Because the summer months are busy for everyone, we have a weekly sign-up instead of monthly during June, July and August for our 10:15 service lay reader. Stop by the *We Can Make It Happen* Bulletin Board and pick a Sunday that fits your schedule. All readings and scriptures are sent out ahead of time for review.



## Boards and Council Monday, June 11

7:00 pm Church boards    8:15 pm  
Church Council

## Book Club

*"I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings"* by  
Maya Angelou is the selected Book Club reading for



## June Birth- days

6/3 Will Hart  
6/3 Tessa Ann Orzech  
6/5 Gail Cholensky  
6/6 David Gerber  
6/6 Jake Dorsey  
6/8 Betty van der Meer  
6/8 Edward McDevitt  
6/8 Ryder Smith  
6/9 Sally Heston  
6/10 Karen Kiska  
6/10 Deanna Clucas  
6/11 Arthur Graham  
6/14 Gabrielle Aquino  
6/15 Carol Merrick  
6/15 P. J. van der Meer  
6/18 June Dengate  
6/18 Dennis Krankowski

6/18 Gale Luther  
6/19 Robert Ertel  
6/19 Robert Duricko  
6/19 Jessica Walters-Tuttle  
6/22 Ryan Hooper  
6/23 Sandy Norris  
6/23 Nancy Owen  
6/24 Greg Remec  
6/25 Jean Bennett  
6/25 Libby Hackworth  
6/27 Beth Gerber  
6/27 Nagwa Ahlborg  
6/28 Jamie Tuttle  
6/29 Pat Norris  
6/29 Dale Stanley  
6/30 Hugh Groth

## June Anniver- saries

6/5 Kara & Matt Hamilton  
6/5 David & Rita Johnson  
6/6 William & Kathryn Schreiner



## Thank You from Cindy Braun, RUCC Music Director



To all our musicians: the Adult Choir, soloists, narrators, instrumentalists, and the Adult Bell Choir for their hard work and dedication who performed throughout the church year, for their time, work, and heart that they put into preparing RUCC's Sunday morning anthems and the special music for the Christmas Cantata, Christmas season and Holy Week services, Easter Morning, and this year, our 200th birthday celebration.

The Adult Choir works diligently every week to provide beautiful hymns, anthems, and musical testimonies to add to our worship service. I would like to thank our vocal soloists who gave their time and talents that enhanced this music.

The instrumentalists, especially our flutists, Beth Gerber and Rachel Luther, who provide beautiful flute music to accompany many of our choir anthems, including the Christmas Cantata, this past Easter anthem, and RUCC's 200th birthday celebration.

A special thank you to our other instrumentalists: Mark Mitchell, trombone; Vernice Deuring, bassoon; Bethany Westphal and Bud Snow, saxophone; Sam Gerber, percussion; Becky Jeric, violin; Stacy Westphal, viola; Shani Diggs' Timpani; Russ Mortus, banjo; Greg Gerber, guitar; and Mary Jones and Polly Wheeler, dulcimer. These musicians added a special beauty to our worship services all year long.

I would like to thank Sharon Muhlheim and the Adult Bell Choir for their ongoing beautiful worship music. It is always a joy to have the bells accompany the choir several times throughout the year.

In closing, I would like to thank our audio visual team, led by Greg Gerber and Jeff Braun (for all the big choir numbers), for videotaping, setting up, balancing, and adjusting the mics while our musicians rehearse and perform for the worship services.

*\*RUCC's music ministries are always looking for new members. If you like to sing, play an instrument, or are interested in playing in the bell choir, please contact me by calling the church office.*





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

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### **GATHERING OF THE CHURCH FAMILY**

**EVERY SUNDAY**  
8:00 AM Early Worship Service  
10:15 AM Worship Service  
11:15 AM Coffee Hour

**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

Like us on Facebook  
[Facebook.com/  
TheRichfieldUCC](https://www.facebook.com/TheRichfieldUCC)

## **June Activities**

- June 1:** Sneak Peek Garage Sale 7-9 pm
- June 2:** Richfield Community Garage Sale
- June 3:** Communion / Youth greet, usher and host coffee hour
- June 6:** Red Cross Blood Drive at RUCC 1-6 pm
- June 11:** Church Boards meet at 7 pm / Council meets at 8:15 pm
- June 13:** 200th committee meeting at 7 pm
- June 17:** Happy Father's Day
- June 22:** Vacation Bible School 6-8:00 pm Preschool — 5th grade Games, crafts and fun!



Richfield United Church of Christ  
...the heart of the community for 200 years

**Richfield United Church  
of Christ**  
Phone: 330-659-3532  
Fax: 330-659-2506