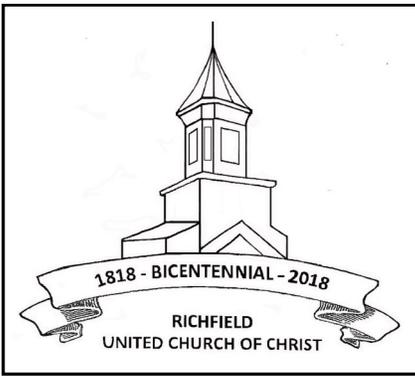


# THE COLUMNS

March 2019



## Lenten Study

### *The Book of Forgiving*

*Join Rev. King for a study and spiritual reflection series on Wednesday evenings in Lent.*



**March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10 7:00-8:30 pm**

This six-week Lenten study series will lead us to reflect on a journey of forgiveness and is based on *The Book of Forgiving* by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Bishop Desmond Tutu and his daughter, Mpho Tutu. To register, call the church office or fill out the form in the Sunday bulletins. A paperback copy of the book can be ordered through the church office for \$13.59, or if you prefer other formats (like e-books, library or hardcover) you can also get the book yourself.



## Richfield UCC Sunshine Helpers

### **Our next workday is Saturday, March 23**

Are you handy with a paintbrush? Do you know how to handle a screwdriver? Can you change a lightbulb? Then the Stewardship & Administration Board wants you to join **RUSH** on Saturday, March 23, at 9:00 am as we tackle more on our to-do-list.



## **Soup Sale**

**Sunday, March 3**

## Lenten Study

Forgiveness is hard. I know.

Forgiveness does not mean pretending a hurt did not occur. Forgiveness means I can choose to let go of the destructive impulse to inflict more damage. Forgiveness is healing. Forgiveness is liberation.

I invite you to join me for a six-week Lenten Study series on **Forgiveness**. This series will examine both the Biblical teachings on forgiveness AND the practical steps that we can all take toward forgiveness.

Our study will be based on The Book of Forgiving by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Bishop Desmond Tutu and his daughter Mpho Tutu. After much reflection on the process of forgiveness, the authors have seen that there are four important steps to healing:

1. Admitting the wrong and acknowledging the harm;
2. Telling one's story and witnessing the anguish;
3. Asking for forgiveness and granting forgiveness; and
4. renewing or releasing the relationship.

Forgiveness is hard work.

Sometimes it even feels like an impossible task. But it is by walking this fourfold path we can free ourselves of the endless and unyielding cycle of pain and retribution. Ultimately, forgiving is the only means we have to heal ourselves and our aching world.

Perhaps one of the best ways to understand the power of this book is to read what others have written about it. Here is a sampling of readers reviews from Amazon.

*Meet me here  
Speak my name  
I am not your enemy  
I am your teacher  
I may even be your friend  
Let us tell our truth together,  
you and I  
My name is anger:  
I say you have been  
wronged  
My name is shame:  
my story is your hidden  
pain  
My name is fear:  
my story is vulnerability  
My name is resentment:  
I say things should have  
been different  
My name is grief  
My name is depression  
My name is heartache  
My name is anxiety  
I have many names  
And many lessons  
I am not your enemy  
I am your teacher*

*Desmond. Tutu  
The Book of Forgiving (p. 114)*

*"I had no words to name my hurt over losing my husband and 13 year old daughter in a terrorist attack. I certainly felt it but it was so overwhelming that I plunged into the third step of Granting Forgiveness so that I could restore peace within myself."*

*"The meditations and journal exercises are nothing short of miraculous. Through them, your soul achieves the peace and strength it needs to excise the toxic effects of the real wounds you have received and gently leads you through a process for freeing yourself you can forgive."*

*"This is probably the best book on forgiveness that I have read, and I have read many books on the subject. Most of the books that I've read just talk about all the reasons why you should forgive, and I am well aware of all the reasons why - I don't need another book telling me all the reasons - I've been looking for books that give the how do you go about this."*

I invite all to join me for this important series. To register and reserve your copy of the book, please call the church office. Our series will begin on Ash Wednesday, March 6, at 7:00 p.m.

- Rev. John King

## March Scriptures

**March 3:** Scriptures: Exodus 34:29-35      Luke 9:28-36

**March 10:** Scriptures: Deuteronomy 26:1-11      Luke 4:1-13

**March 17:** Scriptures: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18      Luke 13:29-35

**March 24:** Scriptures: Isaiah 55:1-3, 6-11      Luke 13:1-9





## **Meet the Artist**

### **Laurel Winters**

*Stop in the Gathering Room to see the artwork of featured artist Laurel Winters.*

Laurel Winters received her B.F.A. and M.F.A. degrees from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia. Although her degrees focus on painting, drawing and printmaking, Winters enjoys a wide range of media, which has been helpful in her career as a teaching artist both in private schools and universities, as well as workshops at art centers, museums and social service organizations. Laurel thinks Akron is a hidden gem of culture and hiking trails and a wonderful place to raise a family – she and her husband, Bill Jordan, raised two boys and an evolving menagerie of fur babies in Highland Square.

#### **Artist's Statement for her pieces currently featured in the Gathering Room**

Making art is how I make sense of the world. My work has been cathartic in times of loss and celebratory in times of joy. My current work focuses on our fragile planet, the damage we are inflicting on it and our fellow creatures that we are mistreating and neglecting. This work has evolved from cautioning about creatures and elements we are losing (pollinators, whales, glaciers), to positive possibilities of turning the balance around (reintroducing wolves or otters), and finally my current series involving a cautionary Gaia demonstrating how our actions are destroying the earth. My hope is that this helps raise further awareness and encourages action on the part of the viewers.



## **Adult Mission Group**

### **Did you know?**

- \*The Adult Mission Group was established in 2002.
- \*The group is one of only six or seven still active in the UCCs of Ohio.
- \*Our average age is 69.
- \*The group has traveled to 10 states over the years to assist folks struck by natural disasters, usually tackling two trips per year.
- \*The group has helped folks locally, as well as bigger projects in the church's Retirement Village and Hobbitts Preschool.
- \*We are always looking for volunteers, no matter your skill level.
- \*We are able to do what we do thanks to the support of the congregation and the community.

**The Adult Mission Group** is planning a trip to West Virginia May 12-17. Please call Betty van der Meer if you are interested in more details (330 620 0977).



# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

God is still speaking,

We will be participating in the *Richfield Community Garage Sale* on June 1, and need **YOUR** donations of items (no clothes, shoes, broken electronics or TVs). More details will follow, but keep us in mind as you begin your spring cleaning!

## **One Great Hour of Sharing**

### **WPM Board Members Surprise the Retirement Village Residents**

In February the WPM Board put together care packages of useful items and treats and delivered the bags to the residents in one of our February snowstorms. Residents expressed their

thanks for the wonderful surprise bag of goodies.





## Youth Scholarships

Barb Simmons was a member of our congregation for many years. During that time, she was very active in the choir, church boards and teaching Sunday school. After her death in 2009, the Christian Education Board created the Barb Simmons Scholarship for graduating high school seniors from the Richfield United Church of Christ congregation.

*The Barb Simmons Scholarship* is for high school seniors and applications are available in the church office.

Jim and Ruth Miller were lifelong advocates of education and longtime members of the Richfield United Church of Christ. Their desire was to leave behind a legacy scholarship to assist active RUCC members with some of the costs of higher education. After Jim passed away in 2014 (Ruth preceded Jim), the Christian Education Board helped bring their legacy to life with this scholarship for college. The CE Board awards the scholarship to former youth group members who have completed at least one semester of higher

## Richfield Youth Group March Activities



Thank you all for supporting our Super Bowl Sub Sandwich Event and the Love Boxes. Our Youth **Very Much!** Fund gained some needed cash for this year's mission trip and 14

of our college youth are enjoying all of the goodies we sent them.

### Sunday, March 3

We are Ushers, Greeters, Reader. Bring dessert to share for Social Hour and come help us serve.

This is WPM Soup Sale day, too, so come get some great homemade soup for lunch.

### Sunday, March 10 4:30-6:00 pm

Youth Group Meeting

Mission trip Information

Put together our storage shelf

Plan the lock

-in. Lenten

Meditations

Bring a  
share.



snack to

Youth Group  
**Overnighter**

Friday,

March 29,

9:00 am-2 pm

Youth will be serving at

Feed My Sheep. I will be at RUCC at 8:30 am to pick up youth, and we will return by 2:30.

If you need a ride, let me know.

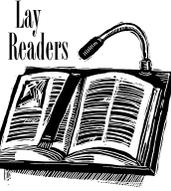
**YOUTH LOCK - IN !**

## Ushers for March

March 3: Youth Group

Gordon Brown Dave Johnson  
Bud Snow Dave Hakos

*If you would like to be part of the monthly usher teams, contact Lew Monegan.*



## March Lay Readers

March 3: youth representative



Diana Julien

## March Boards and Council Meetings

**Monday, March 11**

6:30 pm: The Stewardship and Administration Board

7:00 pm: The Retirement Village Board

Christian Education Board

Worship & Parish Ministry Board

8:15 pm: Church Council

### Moderator's Moment March 2019

We are now well into our 201st year as a congregation. We had a joyous time celebrating our bicentennial last year with several events, keepsakes, an updated book of our history, and Mark Mitchel's monthly insights into our past.

We are well positioned in 2019 as we launch into our third century. In February new board members began their service, taking over for outgoing members. I am very enthusiastic about the energy and ideas coming from all of the boards. If our first RUSH Saturday (we had 21 adults and 5 youth working on a variety of maintenance projects around the church) is any indication, we are certainly going in the right direction. I do love this church.



In Christ's Love, Newt Heston

## March Birthdays

3/1 Amanda Hart

3/1 Carter Aquino

3/2 Ruby Kover

3/3 Stacy Westphal

3/4 Jamie Brown

3/4 Mary Patrick

3/4 Ethel Stanko

3/6 Angie Kuczumski

3/6 Stephanie Treubig

3/6 George Walker

3/7 J.J. Schweikert

3/9 Mackenzie Emilio

3/10 Evan Wohlabaugh

3/10 Robert Ehlers

3/11 David Wohlabaugh

3/11 David Wohlabaugh, Jr

3/17 Jack Miller

3/19 Marty Cinadr

3/20 Larry Cholensky

3/20 Sam Gerber

3/20 Rebecca Cinadr

3/20 Brad Cinadr

3/22 Amanda Scarbrough

3/22 Claude Petek

3/23 Rita Johnson

3/23 Marilyn Scarbrough

3/23 Jeffrey Treubig

3/23 Katrin Miller

3/24 Marc Ahlborg

3/24 Erin Orzech

3/25 Grace Hudec

3/26 Michal Swan

3/28 Terry Bard

3/30 Scott Supelak



## March Anniversaries



3/26 Jim and Dawn Schilling

3/27 Edward McDevitt and Arthur  
Graham

## In Loving Memory

January 8, 2019, June Fieber

February 6, 2019, Bob DiCenzi



## Book Club

Book Club will meet on Monday,  
March 25, at 7 pm in the Gathering Room.

## The Men's Discussion Group

The Men's Discussion Group has been

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

Like us on Facebook

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

[TheRichfieldUCC](https://www.facebook.com/TheRichfieldUCC)

## **March Activities**

**March 3:** Communion / Youth greet, usher and host coffee hour / **Soup Sale**

**March 6:** **Ash Wednesday** / Lenten Study at 7:00 pm in the Gathering Room

**March 10:** Mark Mitchell's Bicentennial Moments (one of two remaining bits of RUCC history)  
4:30- 6:00 pm Youth Group meeting

**March 11:** S&A Board meeting at 6:30 pm / Retirement Village meeting at 7 pm  
Christian Ed & WPM Board meetings at 7 pm / Council meeting at 8:15 pm

**March 13:** Lenten Study at 7:00 pm

**March 14:** Men's Health Group meets in the Gathering Room at 11 am

**March 20:** Lenten Study at 7:00 pm

**March 23:** Richfield UCC Sunshine Helpers workday 9:00 am

**Richfield United Church  
of Christ**

Phone: 330-659-3532

Fax: 330-659-2506