



## THE MESSENGER

**But (the young man) said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.” So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. – Mark 16:6-8**



## *From the Pastor's Pen* Pastor Tom Ulrich

Clearly this Easter will be different from anything else we have experienced . . . but . . . it may be the nearest thing that we get to that first resurrection dawn. As Mark's gospel tells us, the women who went to the tomb were given a message that would transform the world — Jesus had been raised! And then the women were sent from the tomb with instructions to go and tell the disciples that Jesus was going ahead of them to Galilee where they would see Him. But what did the women do? They didn't say anything to anyone because they were afraid.

And just as fear gripped those women who went to Jesus' tomb, fear can also grip us. Whether we are disturbed by reports about the coronavirus or by concerns about our financial wellbeing or by our uncertainty about the future, we too can be overcome by fear, and when we are immobilized by fear, we do not engage in faithful discipleship, we do not participate in the work of God's kingdom, and we do not communicate the good news that Jesus is going ahead of us in order to lead us in a new way.

However, as Bernard Davidson, a psychologist at Augusta University, suggests, "Action negates anxiety." Therefore, even though we remain under a shelter-in-place order and endeavor to practice social distancing, we can nevertheless share the truth that the stench of death which sought to poison our relationships has been thwarted by the aroma of the resurrection, and consequently we can move beyond any hatred, resentment, or blame that destroys human relationships, and instead we can work for the unity, forgiveness, and reconciliation which restore us and sustain us. We can declare that the grip of death which sought to chain us to the shackles of our past mistakes and previous failures has been shattered by the One whom death could not defeat and the grave could not hold, and we can instead embrace God's vision of a new future which offers hope and wholeness for all humanity.

After all, the power of the resurrection ultimately lies not in what it tells us, but in what it asks of us . . . and we are asked to participate with Christ in creating a new community consisting of sisters and brothers from every culture and continent, and we are summoned to share the new hope and new life which Christ offers to all people.

And so, while this Easter will clearly be different from anything else we have experienced, it might be exactly what we need to inspire us to make a difference for the world.

Blessings,  
tom

Be sure to catch a mini Sunday service on YouTube.

You can follow these instructions:

- 1) Going to the Google website
- 2) Type "youtube new covenant akron" into the search bar
- 3) Then click on the link for New Covenant
- 4) Then click on the video

[NCCC YouTube](#)





**I'm looking forward to the future,  
and feeling grateful for the past. —Mike Rowe**

#### FORWARD LOOKING...

Yes, in the midst of our new reality, there are still signs that NCCC is still looking forward.

We are committed, with the assistance of our valuable tech crew—Carol, Joan, Cathy, Susie, and Hal—and Pastor Tom's patience, to streaming a shortened Sunday morning service on our [YouTube channel](#).

We have received from the printer 50 Welcome Cards, which will be placed in a basket on the welcome table and in the pews. New Initiatives took the lead on this.

Our colorful poster arrived from China, not as we had envisioned, however. It came as a puzzle-like conglomeration that Cathy King is still trying to figure out. Anticipating some issues with this earlier, we went back to Vision Graphics and asked them to mount the picture on a poster before the virus shut them down.

Lastly, we are moving forward with a ZOOM account, free for a year from the Presbytery, to use for meetings and small group discussions, and possibly for Bible Study.

In the meantime, your Governing Board is covering the bases by calling all members to chat and to see if they need anything. Our one or two emails per week sent out by Tom are hand-delivered to those without computer access. Meantime, please check your email daily. April, May, and June birthday cards are now being mailed by Mary Lindsay. February and March was handled by Sue Jones. You can also drop off your Sunday morning offering anytime in the new lock box, installed outside near the parking lot entrance by Ken Heischman and John Sezna, or mail your offering as well as your One Great Hour of Sharing contribution to the church. Mail is checked frequently.

#### ...AND A LOOK BACK

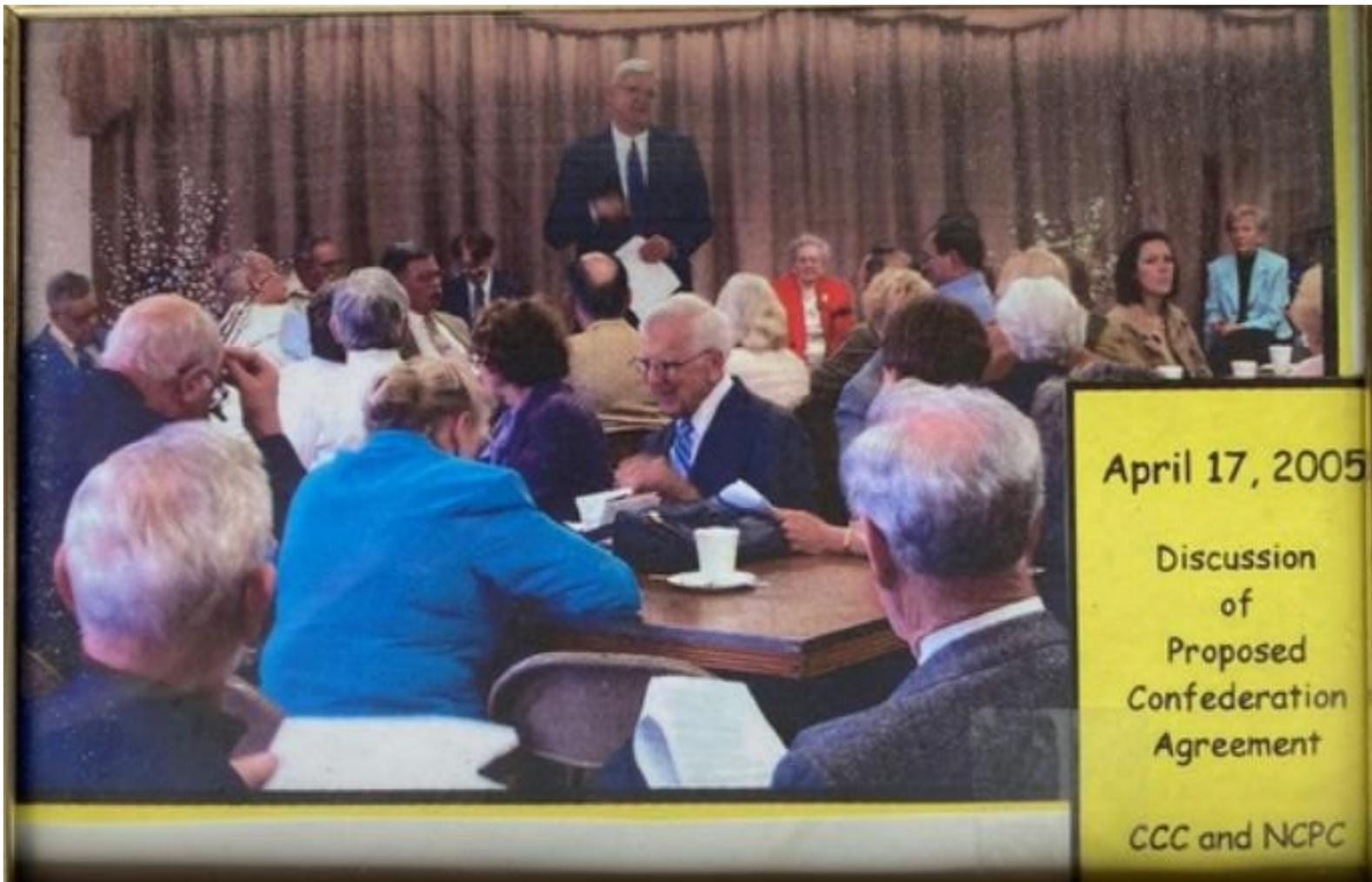
Let's forget the present and turn back 15 years. It was 15 years ago that Covenant Community Church and New Covenant Presbyterian Church combined to become one. On April 17, 2005 we met in the Fellowship Hall of NCPC to discuss the final plan for a merger. (see photo). Then a week later on April 24 in that same location, we met after the service to vote on the proposal, which passed with one or maybe two dissenting votes. (second photo) The new church would later be called New Covenant Community Church. While we won't be able to celebrate in April, there will be some type of recognition when we're all together again. And remember, too, for all the pettiness that evolved in that next year, NCCC is here today because of a successfully merged congregation!

Peace and joy to all of you as we look forward to meeting in the days ahead.

Nancy Williams,  
Governing Board President

**Governing**  
*Board*

# APRIL 2005



Above: Discussion of the proposed merger, April 17, 2005

Below: Church service with choir, and people voting afterwards in Fellowship Hall, NCPC  
April 24, 2005

CCC/NCPC

APRIL 24, 2005 THE DAY OF DECISION





## AAIC 11th Annual Fairlawn Hunger Walk “Feed the Need”



I'm on the route on a warm, breezy March 29<sup>th</sup>, showing where I and many others would normally be walking on Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Unfortunately, this, as well as the N. Canton Walk, have been cancelled along with the reception afterwards. However, as you know, the need is greater than ever this year.

Our church is collecting donations the way we always have: In the next few weeks, ending April 26<sup>th</sup>, write a check to NCCC and mark Hunger Walk in the memo line. Mail the check to the church or deposit it in the new church lock box. After April 26<sup>th</sup>, the treasurer will count the money and have a check made out to AAIC Hunger Walk. I will pick up that check along with the Missions Committee donation of \$300 and take to the Unitarian Church on May 3 between 2-3, where a few of us will collect donations from other congregations and anyone who drives by and wants to donate. The process of recording all checks and other money taken in will then proceed. Another way to donate is on the AAIC website—[akroninterfaith.com](http://akroninterfaith.com). Press the Hunger Walk button and follow the prompts. This year for the first time, donors can designate the congregation they represent. Any donations from church members after the April 26<sup>th</sup> deadline should be made online or by sending a check made out to AAIC Hunger Walk and mailed to AAIC Hunger Walk, 3300 Morewood Rd., Akron, OH 44333. Encourage your friends, neighbors, and relatives (adult children living in Akron or out-of-state) to donate online.

You might remember an email to the congregation a few weeks ago concerning a Good-year and an anonymous donor matched those donations. Well, \$55,000 was raised that week for the Foodbank, thanks to all of you who donated online in that timeframe. That money was NOT for the Hunger Walk. With the coronavirus crisis, the money was needed immediately.

An interesting fact to note: The Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, located on Opportunity Parkway, was formed in 1982 by a group of community leaders who made a commitment to provide emergency food to neighbors in need. Additional facts will be forthcoming in subsequent weeks. These facts were going to be integrated into our Sunday morning worship services. Thanks to Cathy King for gathering this information. Let's "Feed the Need" this year with our generous contributions once again.

Nancy Williams

## “Feed the Need”

### The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Fairlawn AAIC Hunger Walk on May 3 Is Cancelled.

Donations are needed now more than ever. Please submit by May 3.



Online Donations through the [AAIC Website](#)  
and through active [Facebook Fundraiser](#)

Or Mail a Check to AAIC Hunger walk to  
3300 Morewood Rd, Fairlawn OH 44333.

Or Submit Donations In Person May 3  
between 2-3pm to a person outside the main  
entrance of Unitarian Universalist Church.



Donations counted and sent to  
the Akron Canton Regional  
Foodbank

Sponsored By the Akron Area Interfaith  
Council



**AAIC General Meeting,**  
**Tuesday, April 7, 11:00 a.m.-Noon,**  
**via ZOOM.**  
**Instructions from AAIC leaders later.**  
**Anyone can attend the meeting**



## Pledges and Offerings

Mail in or drop off  
 pledges or donations  
 Please submit donations for  
 One Great Hour of Sharing  
 by April 5th

Hunger Walk  
 donations are needed by  
 April 26th

Book fairs for Case CLC &  
 Portage Path CLC are on hold.  
 The Missions Committee  
 will have more information  
 in the future.

We did collect \$71  
 from our non-election bake sale.

Thank you bakers and buyers.  
 Nancy

APRIL 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

