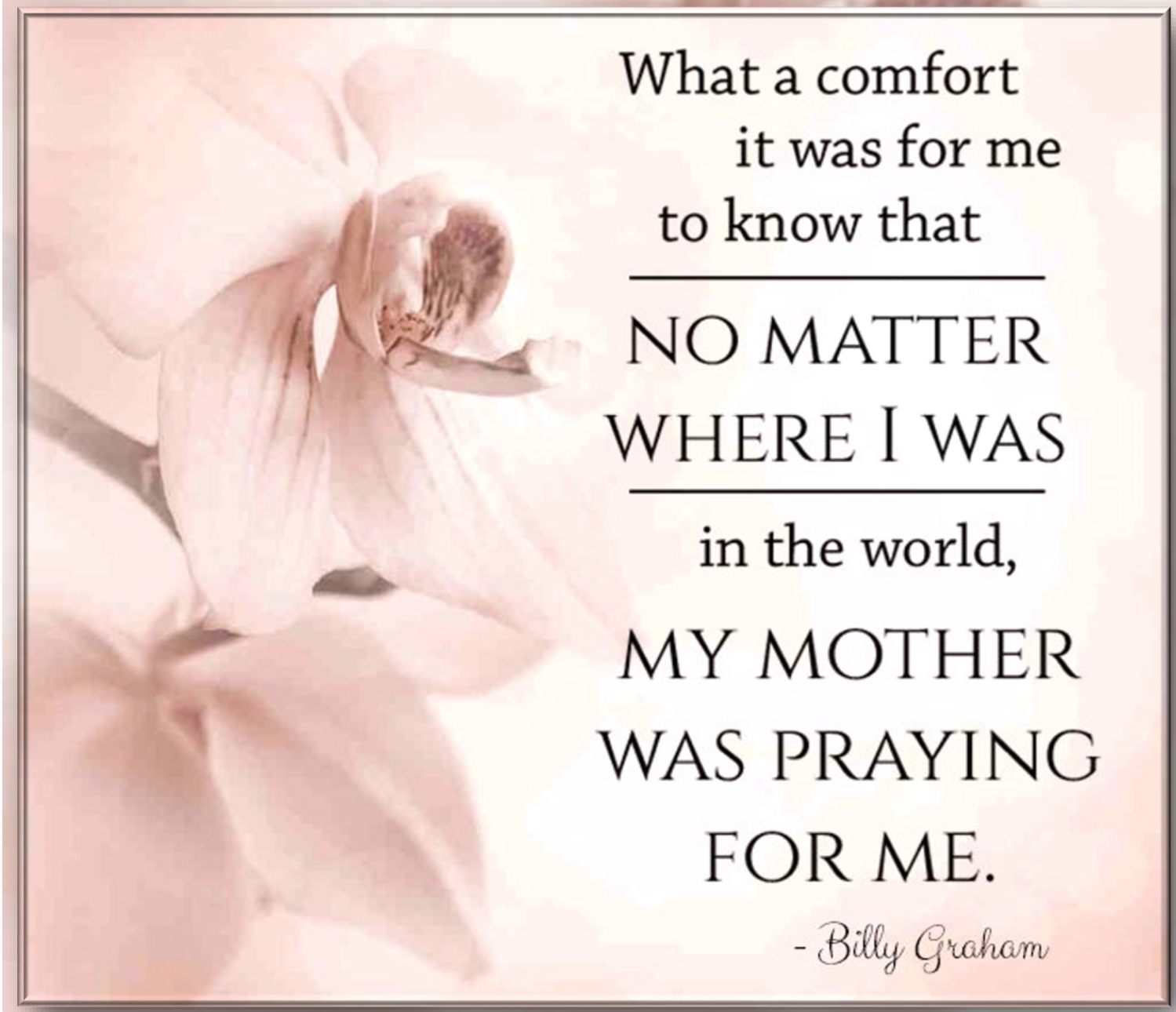
The Messenger

MAY 2020



Happy Mother's Day

from

New Covenant

COMMUNITY CHURCH

The Pastor's Pen

In a time when our world looks different, our worship looks different, when school looks different, when everything looks different, flowers bloom, and where flowers bloom, there is hope. And especially during this season of Easter, there is hope… because perhaps more than any other entity, the church provides the arena of hope. For us, our hope comes not in any of the promises given by any political agenda, or by any grand design to defeat our enemies, or by striving to obtain more of anything. Rather, our hope rests in our faith in the God of hope, a God who never stops loving us and never stops pointing us to a better world. For people of faith, we sense hope each time we gaze on a sunrise . . . or gather at the Lord's Table . . . or see the dedicated professionals standing on the frontlines of a pandemic to confront an invisible enemy.

In addition, our hope comes from one another, from the committed disciples whose faith is more contagious than any disease. Our hope comes in participating in the lives of our sisters and brothers in times of celebration and tragedy, and in persevering together through struggles, triumphs, and transformation.

So, as we move through these difficult days, let's look for the flowers blooming along the way.

Peace,

tom

In the midst of this pandemic, NCCC is still looking ahead and moving forward to accommodate this new norm in our lives. Our gardeners have removed old leaves, cleaned up the area, planted potatoes, and have plans for more planting many vegetables as well as flowers. We have learned how to Zoom fairly well. This is a highly successful method of communication for our informal chats, Tom's Wednesday Bible Study, and our latest Governing Board meeting.

Parking Lot Project

Speaking of the Governing Board, the group has approved going ahead with redoing the apron to the driveway and is still considering whether to try to redo the entire parking lot this year. Perrin is the company we will go with, but the Governing Board and Finance committee feel we need to raise approximately $15,000 from our members for a job that will cost around $30,000. This may or may not be feasible this year with constraints on our members' finances because of the pandemic and the fact that even though our pledges are coming through, other donations made by members and friends who attend services and put cash in the collection plates every Sunday are not there. While all the present Governing Board members stated they would contribute to the project, we do not know about everyone else. Comments from the rest of you can be addressed to me, John Sezna, or to any one of our Board members.

The **Facilities Committee** plans to wash the outside church windows this month. That's something that has not been done before. They have already cleaned out of the refrigerator and freezer.

Thank you, Mary and Susie

Helping Hands/Member Care continues to send out birthday cards and will be mailing "thinking of you" cards to members we do not see often or who cannot come to church. Mary Lindsay is handling this task for May and June. We thank Susie Stevenor and Helping Hands for contacting people to provide meals for Kris, Dick, and Sasha Wagner. Kris is recovering from breaking her ankle while moving into their new condo last Friday in the Shady Hollow development. If you wish to contribute a meal, please contact Susie. The Wagner's new address is 695 Briar Ridge Lane, Akron 44313. Kris' phone is 330-607-2856.

We are keeping up with our pledging units. Treasurer John Sezna, and the **Finance Committee**, appreciate your faithfulness in this matter. For those of you who give cash, please consider putting the cash into an envelope and putting that into our church lock box next to the parking lot entrance. Mail has been extremely slow lately.

—Continued on the next page—

"When will we get back to worshipping in the Sanctuary?" While we do not know at this point, rest assured that a group will be formed in May from our church and Gospel of Christ to lay out guidelines for in-person worship and for the use of Fellowship Hall and the kitchen during the summer. Until that day, we are grateful to Carol Davis, Hal Horton, and Joan Lannoch for coming in each Saturday to record the Sunday services. We thank Tom for creatively adapting to this type of worship experience. Keep watching, liking, and posting to Facebook friends.

"When will we get back to worshipping in the Sanctuary?"

On a similar note, NCCC is now featured on AAIC's Facebook page. Each Sunday, services from diverse worship groups are posted on their site. Go to the AAIC Facebook page, facebook.com/AkronInterfaith/, and scroll down until you see Tom's weekly sermon posted.

Stay well, stay upbeat, and enjoy the spring beauty unfolding everyday. May the beauty of God's creation surround you daily as we continue to move forward.

Nancy Williams,
Governing Board President

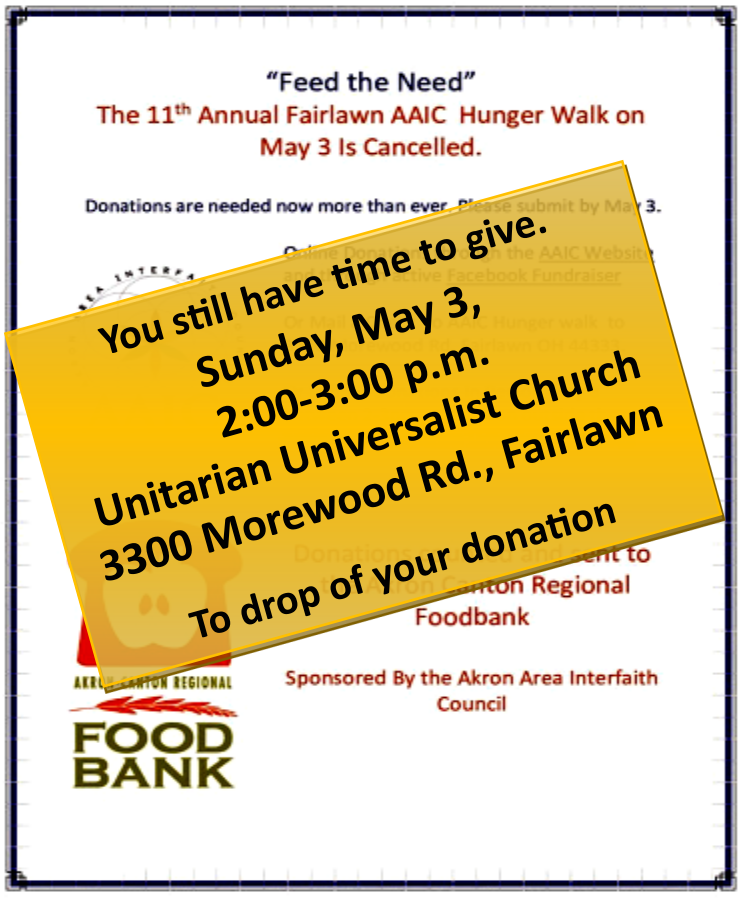
Governing Board

AKRON AREA INTERFAITH COUNCIL
AAIC

MAY UPDATE

The May 5th committee meetings will be held from noon-1:00 p.m. on Zoom. Both, the April meeting and the general chat on April 23rd, brought people together in unexpected ways. While we miss meeting in person, we have learned some things about our new AAIC members.

We look forward to celebrating the AAIC's 40th anniversary in some way outdoors during the summer.



THANK YOU FOR, "FEEDING THE NEED"

11th Annual Hunger Walk

Once again, NCCC has really responded to our annual 2020 Hunger Walk. You answered the call for monetary donations, in this year of extreme need for food. The Foodbank received two checks from our members, a collective check of $1785, and another for $75. Add to that the $50 donation made on the AAIC Facebook Fundraiser page, and the $300 donation from the Mission Committee.

That brings our total to $2200, and surpasses last year's record of $2030. Thank you so much.

I want to single out a few contributions this year— from my daughters, Kristin & Susan who gave to the Hunger Walk instead of giving me a birthday present in March, and to Doug Dietz, who gave again in memory of his mother Mary, a tireless walker and great supporter of the Hunger Walk.

What I don't have is the total for the week, March 17-21, when Goodyear and another donor matched donations, for up to $40,000. This was an online donation only through the Foodbank, so I do not have a list of members who donated or the amount. If any of you who donated wish to email me the amount, I will add to our church's total.

If you who still wish to donate to this year's Hunger Walk, I suggest coming to the Unitarian Church, 3300 Morewood Rd., Sunday, May 3, between 2:00-3:00 p.m. and dropping off your donation from your car. I and another member of our Hunger Walk Committee will be there. Just pull up to the church's main entrance, STAY IN YOUR CAR, drop your donation into our basket. We will be collecting donations from other congregations and passers-by. Or, you can mail your check to **AAIC, 3300 Morewood Rd., Akron 44333.** Make checks out to **Hunger Walk**. Mail is very slow now, but it is checked everyday at the church. While the drive has been extended to June, because the need is so great, NCCC is NOT accepting any more checks made out to our church this year.

While I am sorry that Cathy King did not get to present her creative presentations to you each Sunday in church beginning in late March, I am grateful for her willingness to be part of this effort at NCCC each year.

You will receive a final write-up in the emailed bulletin this week. The Hunger Walk is a fun and extremely meaningful project to take on each year for our church. While I don't miss the craziness that goes along with last-minute preparations on the day of the walk and the reception following in Fairlawn, I do miss the walk itself and the interaction with other faith groups. Everyone is so enthusiastic that day, except for maybe the people in the kitchen cleaning up until 7:00 p.m. that night.

Thanks once again for "Feeding the Need." Your efforts were especially appreciated this year.

—*Nancy Williams & Cathy King*

Garden & Grounds Update

Spring is here!

The sight of flowers blooming and trees and grass turning green makes us smile and look forward in spite of the strange world we find ourselves in. Our Mission Garden may be more important this year than ever by helping to provide fresh vegetables to those in need.

To get the Mission Garden ready for planting Marty Pastor, Ken Williams, and Bev Cinovec removed leaves and weeds, and generally cleaned-up both the Monarch and Mission Gardens. Tim Meyer has also been working around the church grounds. Along with cleaning-up, he planted a bunch of lilies, that he rescued from being discarded, around the parking area. Marty Pastor planted the extras by the Monarch Butterfly Garden.

Rescued & Replanted

With the garden prepped, Marty and Bev planted potatoes. It's too early for the other vegetables.

Part of the fence behind our Mission Garden recently collapsed. Nancy Clem has contacted and informed the property owner, who does not live there, and hopefully inspire a repair or replacement.