

# NEW COVENANT

COMMUNITY CHURCH

June 2020

## THE MESSENGER



Pentecost

# *Celebrating Pentecost*

As COVID-19 continues to keep churches empty, Pentecost is a powerful reminder of what to look forward to when the saints are able to gather again. Acts 2:1 says, “When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.” Even though we are not able to worship together in one place, here are some ideas to commemorate the day, as we worship from home.

**Wear red:** Red is the color of Pentecost, symbolizing the Holy Spirit's arrival with tongues of fire.

## **Tell the story:**

Read together the story of Pentecost in [Acts 2](#). Imagine the scene. Ask each family member what they will try to remember from the story.



**Balloons:** Use balloons to celebrate. Some balloons rise, while others do not. The difference is the air inside. Helium is invisible, but we can see its effects on the balloon.

**Learn the story of your church:** Talk to an older member of your church or research the history of your congregation. Ask members what the church was like when they began attending.

**Bake together:** Make a cake to celebrate the birth of the church. Share your own memories of Sunday School, church, and people who have been important in helping you grow in faith. Red icing and candles serve as great reminders of the Spirit coming as individual flames and resting on each of the disciples.

**Feast:** If you celebrate Easter with a family feast, have a similar meal on Pentecost.

**Enjoy the wind:** Make and fly a kite. Blow bubbles and watch the wind carry them away. Play with pinwheels. Talk about all the wind does, even though you cannot see it.

**Pray together:** Living God, you sent the Holy Spirit to breathe life into your church. Let us no longer be captives to fear, but messengers of your saving love, so that all may be reconciled in you; through Jesus Christ, our peace.

# *From the President's Desk*

## *By Nancy Williams*



### **Congratulations, Dustin!**

First of all, congratulations to Dustin Frlich on his graduation from Arizona State. I imagine he is the only one of our members to go through a virtual graduation.



### **The Summer Season**

Summer is here—the season is moving forward. We rejoice in the beauty of lush, green lawns; flowering bushes; newly-planted vegetables and flowers, and the cheerful sounds of birds singing well into the evening.

Our church is moving along with fresh, new accomplishments. The garden, planted about four weeks ago, looks good. Serious weeding is now occurring.

### **Parking Lot Campaign**

And... the capital fund drive for the parking lot resurfacing project has taken off with a bang. With Governing Board members' pledges totaling \$10,000 plus another \$1600 (probably more by the time you read this), we are off to an enthusiastic start on our goal to raise \$30,000.

Make sure you read the letter you received from the Board and prayerfully consider what you can contribute to make the project happen this year.



Zoom chats are occurring with stories and laughter as we listen to our fellow members relate humorous tidbits that have occurred in their lives. The Wed. 4:00 p.m. Bible Study led by Tom has a number of faithful attendees.

### *Thank you*

Members are stepping up to provide meals for Kris, Dick, and Sasha Wagner. The formerly active Fellowship Committee recently provided a special meal from a local restaurant to Heidi and Ken. Heidi's wrist is healing from a fall she experienced.

Our volunteers who enable Tom to present the Sunday worship service online each week, are in the building Saturday morning to ensure that the you can watch the service in the comfort and safety of your own home.

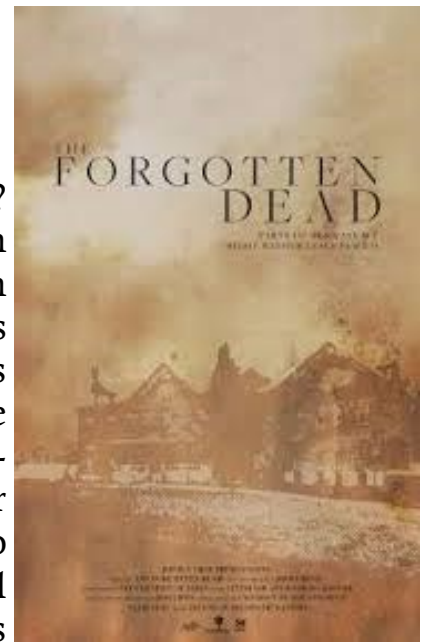
The website is in the middle of major update, and there is a sign out front advertising the Sunday service on our website for any who passes by.



So...enjoy the beauty of the summer ahead, keeping in mind that probably before the calendar turns to fall that we will gather together for some type of in-person worship on Sunday mornings, that is if you don't get too comfortable in your lounging attire to attend!

## Community News      Here's Your Chance to See The Forgotten Dead

**D**o you know what lies beneath Schneider Park in Akron? You are invited to step back in time, through an unfinished documentary by local filmmaker, Josh Gippin (the owner of Joshua Tree Productions). The movie tells of the cruel history of the poor elderly and those with disabilities lived in the mid-19th and early 20th century. It reveals how those housed in the Summit County Infirmary were treated and then discarded in unmarked graves, which now lie beneath a green space for residents to play. *The Forgotten Dead* strives to memorialize those who were marginalized in life and forgotten in death, by challenging us all to rethink our perceptions of the people around us living today with disabilities.



When Gippin's class at the University of Akron was shut down because of COVID-19, he lost not only his actors/workers, but he also lost his funding. However, for \$10, you can purchase a ticket on EventBrite, which will help support his effort to finish the project. Go to [https://](https://bit.ly/3cocUSy)

[bit.ly/3cocUSy](https://bit.ly/3cocUSy), or go to EventBrite and search for "*Forgotten Dead*". Your family can watch this film for only \$10 and support him as he and others complete the work. The pre-release screening can be viewed at 7:00 p.m., from June 5<sup>th</sup> to June 7<sup>th</sup> each night.



### JUNE UPDATE

2020 Hunger Walk Final Numbers will be out later in June. Our church's contributions totaled an outstanding \$2335. In addition, the Goodyear match in March of \$350 by a few of you added more money. (This was counted separately from the other total.)

The AAIC Zoom meeting, Tuesday, June 2, 12-1, will feature a representative from the Jewish Federation, who will discuss the work they do. If you wish to join in please contact Nancy W. She will give you the meeting link.



# PENTECOST WILL SOON BE HERE

To our ICCC Family,

PENTECOST WILL SOON BE HERE.  
IT COMES IN THE MIDST OF THE PANDEMIC.  
STATES AND COMMUNITIES ALL ACROSS OUR COUNTRY  
ARE LOOSENING RESTRICTIONS.

SOME SAY TOO EARLY  
OTHERS SAY NOT SOON ENOUGH.

WE ARE URGED TO KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE  
AND BY MOST SCIENTISTS WEAR A MASK.  
I IMPORE YOU TO DO WHAT IS THE SAFE THING.  
NUMBERS OF LIVES LOST AND PEOPLE  
INFECTED ARE STILL ON THE RISE.  
MY PEOPLE, YOUR PEOPLE, PEOPLE WE LOVE  
SO SICK AND SO MANY DYING.  
GOD HELP US! GOD DOES!!!

PENTECOST REMEMBERING IS ON THE WAY.  
THE DAY THE POWER OF GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT CAME  
AND PETER PREACHED 3000 TO SALVATION.  
THE HOLY SPIRIT STILL COMES TODAY.  
ITS TRUTH IS OFFERED IN THOSE POWERFUL WORDS  
FROM PETER, "ALL WHO CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE  
LORD WILL BE SAVED."

PENTECOST BRINGS HOPE AND ASSURANCE  
THIS PANDEMIC WILL NOT BE THE FINAL WORD.  
THE FINAL WORD – IS VICTORY OVER SIN AND DEATH.

MAY THE HOLY SPIRIT EMPOWER YOU, FILL YOU WITH HOPE.  
VICTORY WILL BE OURS!

HARRY FOOCKLE



*International Council of Community Churches*

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. - Acts 2: 1-4

## The History of Father's Day

In May 1909, Sonora Louise Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington, heard a Mother's Day sermon by Reverend Dr. Henry Rasmussen and thought a similar day should be set aside to honor fathers. Her father, William Jackson Smart, a Civil War veteran, raised six children as a single parent.

### Not an Easy Task

On June 6, 1910, Dodd approached the Spokane Ministerial Association and the local Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) with her petition outlining the idea for an annual observance and received overwhelming support. Spokane held its first Father's Day celebration on Sunday, June 19, 1910, with moving speeches from local ministers.

In 1916 President Woodrow Wilson celebrated the day by opening a church service in Spokane by telephone from the Oval Office. Mister Wilson liked the Father's Day idea so much that he pushed to make it a national holiday (he had just made Mother's Day official in 1915), but Congress feared the move would take support away from Mother's Day.

Undeterred, Dodd took her mission on the road and spoke publicly to fathers to gain their support. But she was met with hard criticism. While President Calvin Coolidge was willing to urge states to observe the day, he refused to issue an official proclamation.

In 1966, when the holiday efforts reached another stalemate in Congress, Senator Margaret Chase Smith penned a harsh memo declaring, "Either we honor both our parents, mother and father, or let us desist from honoring either one. But to single out just one of our two parents and

omit the other is the most grievous insult imaginable."

More than 50 years after Dodd's

initial efforts, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Executive Order declaring Father's Day as a holiday to be celebrated on the third Sunday of June. But, it wasn't until President Richard Nixon signed an official proclamation, in 1972, that Father's Day became a federal holiday.



Sonora Louise Smart Dodd Courtesy of Northwest Museum of Arts Culture/ Eastern Washington State Historical Society

### Unique Celebration Ideas

**Personal Memoir:** If dad taught you to throw a ball, cast a line, or wield a racquet, chances are your accomplishment required a great deal of time and patience on his part. A personal memoir in a leather-bound journal of that time together, with photos from the adventure, can make a gift he'll appreciate the rest of his life.

**Gift of Music:** For some families, music is an integral part of their lives. Whether your dad plays the trumpet or violin, or simply loves Wagner, why not make him a simple playlist, or "mixed tape"? Or give him tickets to a concert you can attend together.

**Find a New Favorite :** Does dad love beer, wine or coffee? Have a taste-testing event and find a new favorite.

Whatever you do, a personal gift is a way to tell dad that nothing he did in the past went unnoticed, and that he continues to inspire you every day.