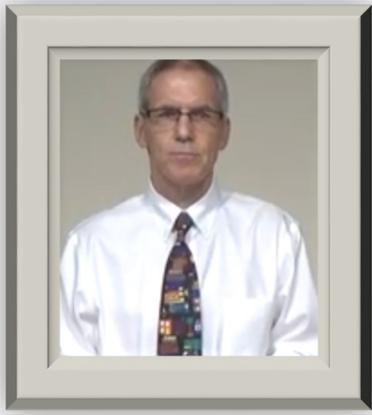




**THE MESSENGER**

JULY 2020

**NEW COVENANT**  
COMMUNITY CHURCH



# From the Pastor's Pen

Pastor Tom Ulrich

## Needing Some Change?

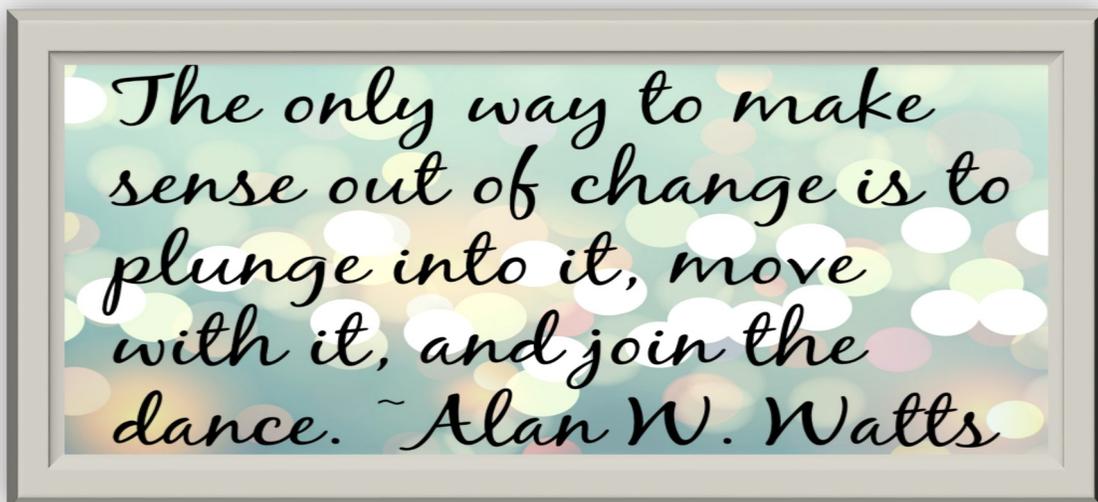
During these times of sheltering-in-place and social distancing, all of us are learning that our circumstances and the way we approach them are changing. Over the last few months, we have had to change the way we interact, the plans we had for the summer, our access to the grocery store, and even the way that we worship. Even as we anticipate the time in the unknown future when we may be able to gather together again, those events will involve changes to the way we assemble. Because change nudges us to uncomfortable places beyond our comfort zones, we may resent change and resist it and perceive of change as negative.

However, change can be good for us. In many instances, change can encourage innovation; change can assist us in developing and nurturing new skills; and change can inspire us to face these new challenges directly. Rather than resisting change, we can endeavor to use change to our advantage, for without change, things would stay the same and ultimately stagnate and die. Without change there is no adventure in life. And when we change, we have the opportunity to adapt and move forward.

So, as we continue through these days, let us consider how the changes we encounter may invite us to envision what God is calling us to do and how God is calling us to live, for in doing so there may be a gift waiting to be discovered.

Peace,

tom



# Governing Board

WHAT A MONTH!

Yes, what a month we have witnessed in our nation and in our world closer to home—horrific shootings, numerous protests, the uptick in Covid-19 cases, and the spectacle in the political arena. On the positive side, just maybe our country is now truly concerned with stemming the tide of racism and taking a more positive approach to Black Lives Matter as we look forward to the timely streaming of “Hamilton” on July 3. Let us take time to remember just what Independence Day means to all of us in today’s context.

**“Where are we right now...”**

Where are we right now at NCCC in the midst of this chaotic frenzy? Not in the least bit chaotic, our finances look healthy. Pledging units are keeping up with their faithful giving, although we do miss the loose offerings we receive in the weekly collection plates each Sunday. Best of all, pledges for the parking lot renovation have surpassed what the Governing Board had hoped for. More than \$20,000 has been pledged. We’re now on the list with Perrin Asphalt to work on the project this year.

A bonus has occurred—for the March election we prepared for but was abruptly cancelled, we received our \$300 from the Summit Co. Board of Elections.

Turning to the outside, the grounds around the church have been spruced up by Tim Meyer and others. Our community garden, led by Bev Cinovec and her workers, is thriving.



Read more in “Garden & Grounds Update”

Bi-weekly Zoom chats are occurring with a small, chatty group who enjoy the time together. The chat on June 30th gave people a chance to give input on the reopening of our sanctuary for in-person worship. Obviously, there are many facets to consider. But, based on Tuesday’s discussion, along with e-mails and phone calls, many of you have made it clear that we need to wait. So, we will refrain from having in-person services throughout July and August. The Governing Board will take the issue up again at the August 24th board meeting.

- Nancy Williams,  
Chair, Governing Board

Let us pause to remember the life of long-time, hard-working member, Dick Wagner, who passed away peacefully at home on June 27th

# Remembering Dick Wagner



Dick was the former treasurer of Covenant Community Church as well as NCCC, always carefully considering the finances and decisions made along the way.



One of the things I will remember about Dick is that he was not only a diligent worker in the church, but also an enthusiastic participant, along with his wife, Eve, in our former Ethnic Eats group that went on for four or five years. In fact, Dick was one of the drivers to our very first dinner in Sept., 2005, at The Mad Greek Restaurant in Cleveland Heights.



While he loved the church, working on the business side, he enjoyed the fellowship opportunities provided. We'll miss your kind, cheerful outlook, Dick. God be with you.



Peace to everyone,

*Nancy Williams*

# Treasurer's Note

Dear Members and friends of New Covenant Community Church,

As I sat down this week to write a memorial check in memory of our dear friend, Dick Wagner, it occurred to me that there are two ways to memorialize a loved one at New Covenant. The traditional way is to write a check to NCCC with the word "Memorial" on the memo line. In this instance, the funds will be deposited into a "Memorial Fund" to collect interest until the Governing Board finds the need to spend the money (typically on a non-budget capital expense).

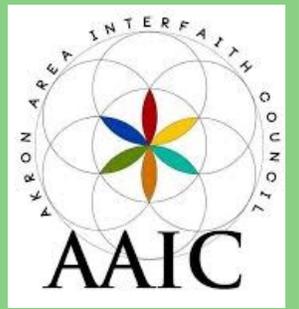
A second way is to write "Memorial Endowment" on the memo line. With the additional word "Endowment", the funds will be deposited into an "Endowment Fund". The Endowment Fund is invested by Huntington Bank with the goal to grow the fund by investment strategies approved by the Governing Board. Over the long run, the amount in the Endowment Fund may grow or decline based on the performance of the investments, but typically will grow faster than in a simple interest account like the Memorial Fund.

The difference is that the Endowment fund cannot have funds withdrawn without Governing Board approval, but can be used to generate future income for the church long after the person being memorialized has passed. We currently have two endowment funds that pay monthly earnings to the church: the Violet Stuck Fund, and the Peggy Sezna fund. Together these two funds contribute approximately 10% of our monthly church income. By writing a Memorial Endowment check to the church, income may be generated in that person's memory as long as the funds and the church continue to exist. For myself, I chose to contribute in Dick Wagner's memory through the Endowment Fund this time.

Yours in Christ,  
John Sezna, Treasurer  
330-620-7338



Akron Area Interfaith Council  
invites you to a  
Virtual Summer Social!  
Thursday July 9 6:30 - 7:30 pm



Bring your tea, coffee or wine, sit in your backyard and come say, "Hi!" to old and new friends in the interfaith community!

Learn personal stories of what unites us;  
History and mission of AAIC  
Akron Area Interfaith Council invites you to a  
Zoom meeting.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83412545023?  
pwd=ODd5NHhTNVJMWE5sR1hOTjFRRTZJZz09#success](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83412545023?pwd=ODd5NHhTNVJMWE5sR1hOTjFRRTZJZz09#success)

Topic: My Meeting  
Time: July 9, 2020 06:30 PM

Join Zoom Meeting  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83412545023?  
pwd=ODd5NHhTNVJMWE5sR1hOTjFRRTZJZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83412545023?pwd=ODd5NHhTNVJMWE5sR1hOTjFRRTZJZz09)

Meeting ID: 834 1254 5023  
Password: 337434  
One tap mobile  
+19292056099,,83412545023#,,,,0#,,337434# US (New York)  
+13017158592,,83412545023#,,,,0#,,337434# US (Germantown)

Dial by your location  
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)  
+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)  
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)  
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)  
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)  
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)  
Meeting ID: 834 1254 5023  
Password: 337434



*International Council of Community Churches*

Hi ICCC Family,

One of the things we want to offer during the Virtual ICCC Conference this year is a montage Of SHOUT-OUTS from ICCC regulars.

So everyone get your Phone or Tablet and record a quick message wishing our ICCC brothers and sisters well. Feel free to forward to others too.

Suggested format:

“Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ Name of your church and city/state\_\_\_\_\_

i hope everyone has a great time at the FIRST ICCC virtual conference”

or other appropriate wishes -

“I miss seeing you in person”

“We are sending prayers for all to remain safe.” etc.

Roberta Smith,  
VP for Financial Development  
Creating Community Moderator  
RobertalCCC@aol.com  
(908) 419-8860



## 11th Annual Hunger Walk

Latest stats on the total 2020 Hunger Walk contributions from the Goodyear Match in March, all faith group donations from Summit and Stark Counties, Facebook donations, donations given directly to the Foodbank, and donations through the AAIC website are still being reconciled. It looks like the so-called “dummy” check presented every year to Dan Flowers at the Foodbank, this year on Aug. 3, will be in the neighborhood of \$35,000 or more, certainly a record.

**THANK YOU FOR  
”FEEDING THE  
NEED”**

# Garden & Grounds Update

Mission garden beds are all growing nicely! Betsy Davis thinned the carrots on Thursday. Bev Cinovec “mounded” dirt up on the potatoes and tied up the tomatoes. Saturday, June 27 the first collard harvest was delivered to Genessaret by Betty & John Miller, new garden recruits! To meet COVID-19 protocols, Bev Cinovec, Nancy Clem, & Betty Miller packaged the collards in sealed bags, ready for individual distribution.



**Garden Harvesters!**



Our Monarch Waystation is now filled with buds and blooms. Stop by to see all the flowers blooming around the by the back-door and Monarch Waystation.

In the front yard, work continues around the church sign. All the daffodil bulbs have been removed and stored in the shed. They will be replanted in the fall, both around the sign and around the parking lot. The garden area around the sign will be cleared of all weeds and amended before any replanting.

- Beverly Cinovec