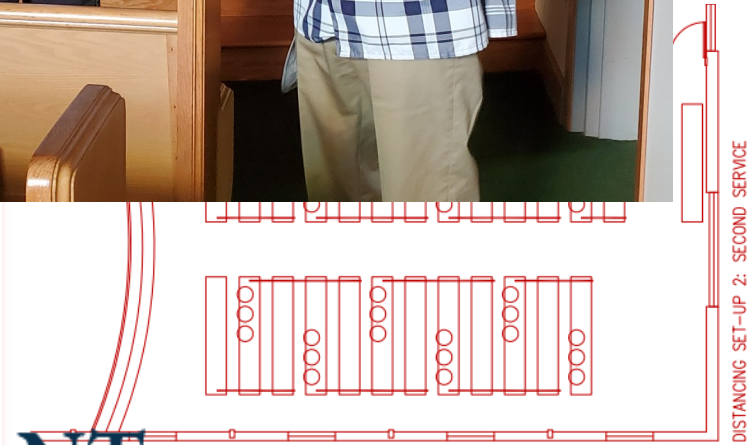
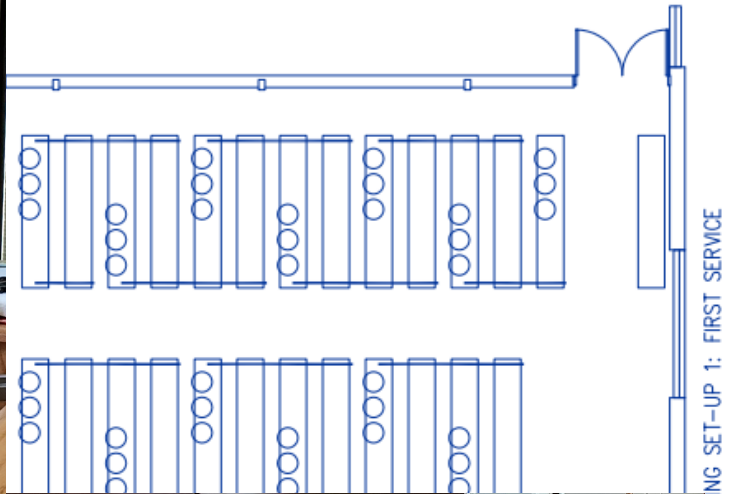


# The Messenger June 2021

## Preparing for Your Return



**NEW COVENANT**  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

**1587 W. EXCHANGE ST., AKRON, OH 44313**  
**COVENANTAKRON.ORG ☎ 330.253.6989**

# THE PASTOR'S PAGE

On our liturgical calendars, **TRINITY SUNDAY** faithful gathering of people Sunday, May 30, is designated as Trinity Sunday, and as we look forward to re-gathering for our in-person services, the doctrine of the Trinity helps us in understanding the value of community.

Indeed, if in the Divine Community there is (as Trinitarian doctrine teaches us) no above and below, no superior or inferior, but only a society of equals who are different from each other but live together in mutual openness, respect, and self-giving love, then any true human community should also mutually embrace people who are different in race, different in gender, different in socio-economic levels, different in political understanding, different in religious beliefs. If the deity of God is fulfilled in the community of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (as Trinitarian doctrine teaches us), then a



created in the image of God is realized only in community, not in isolation from others or in resistance to others. If there is equality between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit within the Divine Community (as Trinitarian doctrine teaches us), then in a truly human community and in the church, there is no place whatsoever for authoritarianism by any individual, gender, racial group, political stance, or religion.

There can only be the quest for a human society that reflects the free, open, egalitarian kind of society that Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have with each other and will for the world.

Therefore, as we re-assemble in our sanctuary for worship, let us model and demonstrate the virtues of a Trinitarian community. —tom



## WELCOME TO OUR INTERIM MUSIC DIRECTOR

As we prepare to re-assemble for our in-person worship services, we want to welcome Olivia Roberts as our new Interim Music Director. With immense gratitude to Marlys Hershberger for the musical legacy that she has left us throughout her years of service, and recognizing how difficult it is to replace Marlys, we have taken the step of hiring an Interim Music Director for the summer.

When we resume our in-person service on May 30, our church will be blessed through the summer with the gifts of Olivia Roberts who will provide the music for the prelude and postlude, lead the singing of the hymns, and offer a weekly anthem.

(Welcome continued page 4)



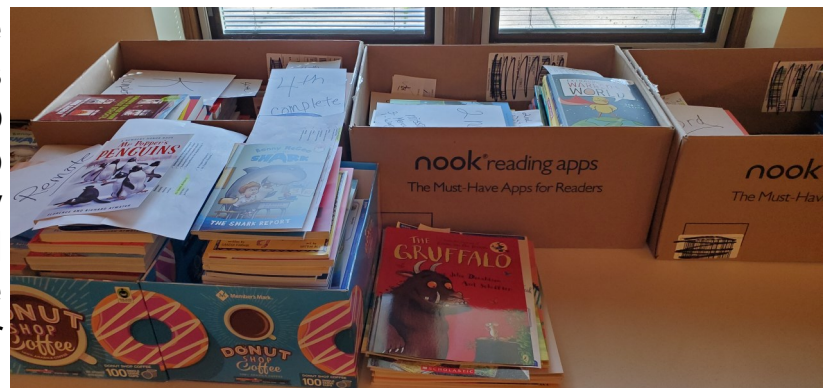
Dear Members and Friends of New Covenant Community Church,

As I am writing this, our first in-person worship service in over a year is still in the future. So as you read this, you will be able to comment back on how you think it went. We are still figuring things out, trying to remember how things used to work, and making judgments about what to continue doing, what to dispense with, and what new things to try. "Brown-bagging" communion will be a first for me, and I suspect for a lot of other people, too. While we gather together as a community again, let's be sure we do not forget those who can't or won't be with us for whatever reason, whether it be health problems that keep them house-bound, not being ready yet for the health risk of exposure to the public, or for any other reason.

Many positive things have happened in the last month. Our mission garden is more completely planted now, to help less privileged members of our community have access to fresh produce through the Gennesaret food ministry. We are also considering a request from another church in the area for help with a monthly food outreach they have been engaged with for several years; we will have more to say about this as plans become clearer.

In spite of the limitations of doing the Hunger "Walk" as a drive-through event, our members and friends stepped forward in a big way. New Covenant donated \$3,700 (including \$300 from the Mission Committee budget, the rest from special contributions), as compared to a completely respectable \$2,385 contributed last year. Next year, we should be able to actually walk again for real. Imagine—a "walk" where we can actually come together and walk!

Our first book fair at Case Community Learning Center is now complete. We intend to continue our commitment to supporting learning and literacy in our community this coming fall with the book fair at Portage Path school as we have done for a number of years now.



Just as we supported the Hunger Walk and the Case book fair, I am truly impressed by how faithful our congregation has been in keeping up with its financial support. Even though we have not been passing a collection plate down the pews each Sunday, we have not only kept a strong budget supported by strong pledging, but as a congregation we have more than kept up with our pledges.

(Continued on page 4)

## PRESIDENT'S PAGE CON'T

Some members have already paid their full pledges for the year, and our accounts overall are in good shape to keep supporting the financial side of the work of the body.

New Covenant has continued to support the northwest Akron community by offering our building as a place to vote, most recently on May 4, when a library levy was on the ballot, and we have agreed to do so again in August, when there will be a special primary election for the seat in congress left vacant by Marcia Fudge, who is now the United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

I am looking forward to meeting our new Interim Music Director Olivia Roberts, and experiencing her talents as they support our Sunday worship.

But even more, I am looking forward to being back together in one place in fellowship with our members. I'll see you there!

In Christ's service,

Tim Meyer, Governing Board President

(Welcome cont. pg. 2) Olivia Roberts (who is a soprano) is ecstatic to make music with our congregation and to get to know everyone! Olivia is a recent graduate of Firestone High School, where she was a member of the Akron School of the Arts program studying voice. While at Firestone, she excelled in her choral studies and sung in their beloved ensembles. She served as Section Leader, Vice-President, and President of the Women's Chorus, Secretary for the Symphonic choir, and sung in the Vocal Jazz Ensemble and Madrigals. Under the private voice study of Susan Wallin, Olivia competed in vocal competitions such as the Schmidt Vocal Competition, and the Regional NATS competition where she placed Honorable Mention, and 2nd place in Classical Voice. While in high school, Olivia was introduced to the Allenside Presbyterian church and served as their Choir Director and Accompanist for 3 years. Through this opportunity, Olivia was able to grow in her musical abilities and be surrounded by a wonderful, supportive community. Olivia is currently studying at Capital University with a major in Vocal Music Education under the private voice direction of Dr. Chad Payton. At Capital, Olivia sings in the Chapel Choir; serves as a Choir Manager under Dr. Lynda Hasseler; is a member of Sigma Alpha Iota (SAI), a professional music fraternity of women; and will assume positions in the Fall as Secretary of Capital's ACDA Chapter, Communications Chair of Embrace Ministries, and Music Director of the Boomwhacker Club! After college, Olivia hopes to teach choral music at a local middle or high school. She is so excited to share beautiful music with us, and she hopes that she can use the power of music to spread the word of God to all those who are willing to hear.

Indeed, Olivia presents us with another opportunity to eagerly anticipate re-gathering in our sanctuary on May 30.

# THE 2021 FAIRLAWN HUNGER WALK (DRIVE-THRU BECAUSE OF COVID)—RESULTS



Our church with contributions from members, relatives of members, friends, and our Mission Committee, contributing an amazing \$3700, exceeding last year's record of \$2385! You stepped up big time to "Feed the Need." The AAIC and the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank thank you for your generosity.

Total amount taken in from both Fairlawn and N. Canton, through checks, cash, checks, AAIC website (Fund Hero), and Facebook totaled \$33,402. 81. The amount also includes an AAIC match of \$5,000. The check, referred to as the "dummy check" will be presented on June 21 at the Foodbank.

Our Fairlawn Hunger Walk committee remains the same for 2022. However, after four years as chair, I am turning the reigns over to two well-qualified leaders from the Unitarian Church. Cathy King, I and New Initiatives will enthusiastically work on getting participation from NCCC in a real "walk" next year on May 1.

## OTHER AAIC NEWS

Outgoing President, Kathy Ress, left for the border on May 13, flying to Arizona, taking photographs, working with the migrants, and posting important information on Facebook and on the AAIC website.



The five-part Tuesday Zoom series, "First 100 Days: Promises Made, Promises Kept?" concluded on May 4. The series focused on President Joe Biden's first 100 days in office, and assessed his promises and accomplishments. Discussions were all from a faith perspective. Each presentation was extremely well-done. Excellent moderators and knowledgeable speakers led all discussions, keeping them moving and on point. I hope some of you had the opportunity to tune into one or two. Not all faces were visible.



The AAIC's June meeting starts at noon on the first on Zoom. New officers will be elected. The new year officially starts Tuesday, August 3 with an in-person meeting at the Islamic Center of Akron and Kent in Cuyahoga Falls. A July social will be announced shortly.



I remind you that Reesa now is an officer of AAIC and will be the secretary responsible for producing the monthly newsletter after June. Her ability in this area, as we all know, is exceptional!

—Nancy Williams



# MARK YOUR CALENDAR



## AKRON WOMEN ON PURPOSE 2021

Calling all women for a day of worship, encouragement and prayer to be on mission for the calling God has for you! On June 5<sup>th</sup>, the Akron Women on Purpose annual conference will fill the stage of the Akron Civic Theater with everyday women, who are simply being obedient to take the next step in walking out their God-given purpose. Come learn from them, worship with them then leave encouraged.


Only 600 tickets will be sold, even though the Akron Civic Theater holds 2600. This will help ensure that social-distancing and sanitation protocols can be followed. The event runs from 9-3, and costs \$35/ticket.


To get more information, purchase tickets, and watch past events, go to [akrononpurpose.com/2021akronwomenonpurpose](http://akrononpurpose.com/2021akronwomenonpurpose).

*pursued*

OUT OF HIDING  
OUT OF SHADOWS  
OUT OF SORROW  
OUT OF SHELLS  
OUT OF CORNERS  
OUT OF LONELINESS

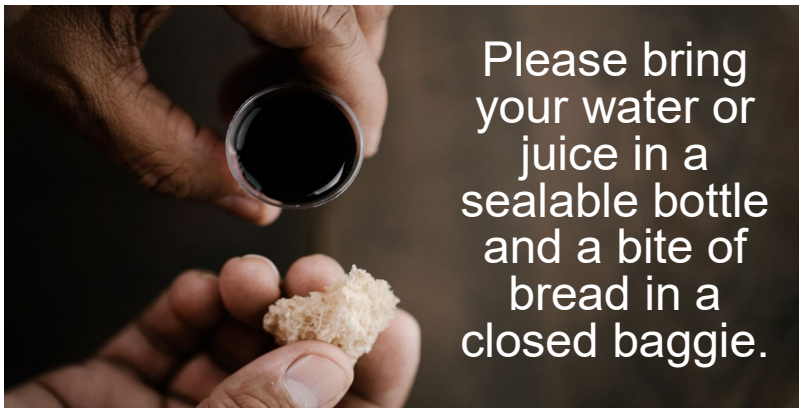
**HE BECKONS YOU -  
YOU HIS BRIDE**

*Akron*  
WOMEN ON PURPOSE  
  
JUNE 5TH 2021




CAMO's annual Golf Scramble is held at The Pines Golf Club in Orrville, OH rain or shine. Teams will gather early in the morning for a complimentary breakfast before hitting the greens. After the game we'll have lunch, a silent auction, and a raffle. The outing will have social distancing.

We encourage you to prepay your registration, for more information call (330) 683-5956 or (330) 621-1522. If you can't come to the scramble, or if golf isn't your thing, you can buy a raffle ticket online for a chance to win a Weber's Spirit Grill!



Please bring your water or juice in a sealable bottle and a bite of bread in a closed baggie.

*Happy Belated  
Birthday,  
First Lady  
Thelma Bell*

