

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN**Music Moments**

We hope that you have marked your calendars for Saturday, July 10, because on that day our Interim Music Director, Olivia Roberts, will be giving a vocal recital at 6:00 p.m., at Firestone Park Presbyterian Church. She will be sharing a number of classical works as well as some selections from several theatrical productions. We hope that you'll be able to attend.

We also want to remind you of our joint "all music" worship with our sister congregations at Allenside Presbyterian Church and Firestone Park Presbyterian Church on Sunday, July 18. What a joy it will be to unite with our friends in the faith!

-tom

Fellowship Returns.....

Yes, on Thursday, June 24, Susie Stevenor and Nancy Williams pulled off the first fellowship activity at the church since the "Meet the Governing Board" lunch in January, 2020!

Twenty-three attended (due to some last minute cancellations) for hamburgers, which Ken Williams grilled, along with delicious sides attendees provided. Amid the blowing winds, we managed to keep the tablecloths from flying away by placing a large rock on each table from Tim Meyer's carefully constructed drainage system off the parking lot. Fortunately, Sue Jones had her cart with her, so we could transport the large rocks easily.

A discussion followed on possible fellowship activities through early fall, as well as a distinction between the Fellowship Committee and the New Initiatives group. (See article) -NW



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

GOVERNING
BOARD

Dear members and friends of New Covenant Community Church,

As June ends and we move into the full heat of summer, I see a lot to be thankful for in our church, and a lot to look forward to as well. To start with, I am thankful that the coronavirus pandemic is starting to wane here in the United States (though much of the rest of the world is nowhere near so fortunate), and the damage within our church family has not been worse than it turned out to be. There have been losses, and some of us continue to deal with the consequences of this new disease, but it is not hard to imagine it having been so much worse. So, it has been such a blessing to be back in church to worship together in our own sanctuary with our fellow believers around us once more. Fussing around with ribbons and sectioning off pews for social distancing is a small price to pay for returning to a real community, and for being able to share our building with another community of Christian believers in worship.

We can't say thank you enough times for the dedicated team of Susie Stevenor, Joan Lannoch, Cathy King and Hal Horton, for keeping our worship services online while we stayed locked up away from our church home, and for Ken Heischman's music in our online services. And, don't forget that we are still streaming our services live, again with the AV team's efforts.

Also on the list of things to be thankful for is the musical talent Olivia Roberts has brought to our worship services for the summer. Our best wishes to her as she moves on to study at Capital University in Columbus this fall. (And be sure to come to the special joint musical service Sunday morning, July 18, when we will join Firestone Park and Allenside Presbyterian churches in Firestone Park's sanctuary, where Olivia will be one of the musicians.)

Among the challenges that the COVID pandemic has placed on our community is remote learning in the schools. Our congregation's commitment to supporting learning and literacy in our community continued with a book fair this spring at Case CLC. We have given books to children at Portage Path (and in the past, at Lincoln School), but expanding to another school this spring while the children were not present in the school building added to the complication of getting each child his or her chosen book. But the teachers and administrators pulled together with our Mission Committee to make it work. Please commend Margie Frlich and the rest of the Missions Committee for this.

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In spite of everyone's best efforts, I have no doubt that the necessary precautions and adaptations to the pandemic have left many children behind in school, and there will be a lot of catching up for them to do for years into the future. As Christians caring for our neighbors, we should be looking for ways to help with this catching up, whether it be continuing our book fair gifts, volunteering to tutor in schools, or in other ways we have not thought of yet.

Another reason to be thankful is that we have continued to serve the less fortunate members of our West Akron community through the Gennesaret Family Nutrition Center. After an initial shut-down when the pandemic began, Gennesaret shifted from its previous in-person meals to serving carryout meals along with other foods to take home, and New Covenant continued to staff the Saturday lunch once each month, with Betsy Davis organizing our volunteer contribution. And again this year, our Mission Garden is planted and growing, to provide fresh produce to the Gennesaret ministry. (We are also learning new things about gardening, as some of what was sold to us as collards grew up to be kohlrabi. What an interesting world we live in!)

A week ago, we had the pleasure of in-person community once again with a picnic and cook-out on a warm Thursday evening; we sat in the shade to eat a pot-luck supper with fresh hamburgers grilled by Ken Williams. Nancy Williams and Susie Stevenor get kudos for organizing.



Now we move forward into the second half of the year, into what looks like it will be a hot and rather dry summer, with much to be thankful for, and with much yet left undone to reach out to the Akron community and to the wider world around us in Christian service.

In Christ's service,

Tim Meyer,
Governing Board President



Fellowship Committee vs. New Initiatives

The purpose of the Fellowship Committee is to provide social activities for church members and guests. Possible activities/suggestions are a Ladies' Lunch at D'Agnese or another place, an evening at Sarah's Vineyard or High & Low Winery, dinner at an ethnic restaurant, attending an activity at Hale Farm or the John Brown House, and attending a Rubber Ducks baseball game. Looking ahead, people seemed interested in having a Souper Bowl Sunday lunch again on Super Bowl Sunday. The current group of people willing to work on this committee include Susie Stevenor (Board Liaison), Nancy Williams, Jackie Horton, Mary Lindsay, and Clarita Rader.

Get in touch with one of us with your ideas, and please offer to assist.

New Initiatives

Formerly the New Member Committee, this group's purpose is to get our congregation involved in an event where we bring outsiders in for a program. The movie nights a few years ago fell under this group's direction and planning. Our church's involvement in the two Fairlawn Drive-Thru Hunger Walks the past two years was coordinated by this group. The unique thing about New Initiatives is that all church members are members. The coordinators are Nancy & Ken Williams, Cathy King, and Nancy Clem (Board Liaison). Currently, nothing is planned for the summer, but suggestions are encouraged. Trunk or Treat, the last Saturday in October, will no doubt occur again.

So...for both Fellowship and New Initiatives, we need your ideas and a willingness to help lead if events are to move forward. We already have a lot going on with the Mission garden, but what about involvement with One Family Under Guard in a meal together? Things to ponder. —Nancy Williams



AAIC UPDATE HUNGER WALK TOTALS



AAIC representatives presented the “big” check for the Hunger Walks to Dan Flowers, Akron Canton Regional Foodbank, on June 21. The check amount of \$33,402.81 represented the total funds from both Fairlawn and North Canton/Stark. However, it must be noted that it does not include a surprise donation of over \$4,000, which the foodbank received on June 24, from a church in Canton. Since it was past our deadline, it will be counted in the 2022 total. All of us from AAIC and others on the committee were amazed by the congregations and individuals who stepped forward to “Feed the Need.” We do this all over again next year. Hopefully, we will walk on May 1, 2022

No AAIC meeting in July.

Highlights from the June 27 presentation on Crisis at the Border, led by AAIC members Kathy Ress and Susan Gallagher plus other clinical psychologists and retired doctors who traveled to Douglas, AZ and Agua Prieta, Mexico for 10 days in May follow.

Their purpose was to provide humanitarian aid to those who crossed into the US and are now being deported back home. The aid consisted of giving these migrants sandwiches, water, and coffee, and in some cases blankets, and taking care of their physical wounds, which were mostly foot-related from walking barefoot through rocky terrain in our country. The group, along with Catholic Charities, talked with these people, comforting them, praying with them, and giving them hope. A gift of rosary beads to these individuals was especially appreciated.

Basically, all the migrants, mostly young men in their 20’s, want to work in the US to support their families back home by returning to give them money they have earned in our country. Humane treatment and obtaining work visas are all they want. They are not criminals or drug thieves.

Certainly an eye-opening presentation, there are ways we can assist, mainly in the form of writing to our Senators. Contact Nancy W. For more information.
—Nancy Williams

Have a safe
&
Happy July 4th

