

# The Messenger

NEW COVENANT

# COMMUNITY CHURCH

A WEST AKRON NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH

## The Pastor's Page

**Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.  
Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.**

**Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.**

**Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.**

**Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but  
associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are.**

**Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.**

**If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.**

**– Romans 12:12-18**

As we continue our life-long journeys of faith, all of us seek ways of being faithful in a world that is constantly changing, and we endeavor to promote the work of the church through our congregational life. However, as our congregation buzzes with activity through our Pastor Nominating Committee, our Faithful Innovation Team, and our Long-Range Planning efforts, it can be somewhat difficult for others of us to pinpoint the areas that would enrich our church's life and ministry.

In her book, *Christianity for the Rest of Us*, Diane Butler Bass has offered ten practices that might be helpful to us as we move forward in faith and follow our Lord into the future:

- *Hospitality* – welcoming strangers as we ourselves have been welcomed by God through the love of Jesus Christ.
- *Discernment* – listening for truth with our hearts and our souls, and asking what God is doing in our ministry.
- *Healing* – expressing God's harmony by overcoming division and discord and mending what is displaced or broken. In doing so, we receive God's healing grace and power, and because we are changed by God's grace, we offer it back to the world.

*(Pastor continued on pg. 3)*

October  
2022

## WORSHIP AT FIRESTONE PARK ON OCTOBER 9

On Sunday, October 9, we will have the joy of worshiping at **Firestone Park Presbyterian Church (275 S. Firestone Blvd.) at 10:30 a.m.** with Rev. Francie Fischer. Tom will be out of town, and as we have done before, our congregation will gather with the folks from the Allenside and Firestone Park Presbyterian Churches.

In the same way, our friends at Allenside and Firestone Park will be worshiping with us in November when Francie will be out-of-town. Through our shared covenant, God blesses us with the opportunity to worship with our sisters and brothers in the faith!



## *From the President's Pen*

Granted, what follows is a bit long but I offer it as it speaks candidly and wisely to who we are: an aging congregation with untapped and unrealized potential. It was written by Kathleen Dowling Singh in *The Grace in Aging*.

Opening deeply to the truth of our own aging is wise. Opening deeply to the truth of our own impermanence is wise. Although such opening may not come easily at first—we all know how the ego tends to resist vulnerability—it is important to do so if we wish to mindfully use the time remaining to us. . . .

To live a life of an elder is to ripen into being that is more than simply elderly, more than just old. It involves ripening into clear-eyed acceptance of the way things actually exist. That ripening involves, for each of us, many difficult reckonings in the multifaceted, multidimensional understanding that everything that can be lost will be lost. . . .

Grey hair and sagginess notwithstanding, many of us still cling childishly to so much that is unreal and inessential. Many of us still cling to reputation, to imagined security, to unexamined habits of attitude and behavior, and to self-image. We have deep aversion to having all of our cherished illusions stripped away by life-in-form's seeming indifference.

We all have reservoirs of fear, some large and some small and subtle, around entering this new terrain of unknown and mystery: our last years. What will aging do me? To my body? To my mind? . . . Will I matter to anyone? Will I be a burden? How will I die?

We do not know. We have no clue what these years will hold for us. We have no clue what will happen tomorrow. The “moment that changed everything” usually arrives unannounced.

The only person who can answer the questions posed by the often painful challenges of aging is the person we will be in the moment we confront those circumstances. The shaping of that person into someone with greater wisdom and equanimity can begin in this moment.

If we are to claim the last years of life as years that hold the possibility of awakening into equanimity and lightness, into the very embodiment of grace, we need to bear witness to the ripening of that possibility. Not only would it be a blessing for each of us, it would be a blessing for a world starving for such witnessing. . . .

Mindful of impermanence, the breath-by-breath arising and abiding and falling of each moment, we can remain in remembrance of our longing to exist in wisdom and love and compassion. We can remain in our intention to ripen into the spiritual maturity that is our birthright to cultivate. There is no more noble way to spend these years than to become an elder, to bear witness to the world as placeholders for peace, love, wisdom, and fearlessness.”

Peace, love, wisdom, and fearlessness, I think that's us.

Fondly,

*Nancy Clem*, Governing Board President

*(Pastor continued from pg. 1)*

- Contemplation – opening your heart for prayer and listening to God in silence.
- Testimony – talking the walk along the journey of faith. In their testimonies these people do not claim to have all the answers, but they ask many questions. They are seen as a way of telling and sharing our faith stories.
- Diversity – making community as a foretaste of heaven through people of many backgrounds and ages who encounter a God who is alive, personal, powerful and full of love for all humanity.
- Justice – engaging the powers by standing against injustice. Justice is spirituality, not a political platform or a denominational position on social issues. It is a pilgrimage, working towards the ideals of God's reign on earth. It is part of being a Christian.
- Worship – experiencing God by inviting

Recognizing the variety of opportunities that are open to us, in what ways might we be able to contribute to the vitality of the church?

Blessings,  
tom

people to experience a sense of openness and attentiveness. Worship needs to be an experience of God, rather than a reflection about God. There is no particular style of worship or music that contributes to congregational vitality. Rather innovation and experimentation matter the most.

- Reflection – thinking theologically and reflecting on life. Instead of wanting answers, people in the emerging mainline are looking for places to ask questions, to learn new questions, and to be accepted by others in their faith community. They do this by thinking theologically, by using language, metaphor and insights from scripture, hymns, sermons, poetry, and literature.
- Beauty – touching the Divine through art, music and drama. Congregations can faithfully craft beauty through the arts, using gifts that open them to a way of understanding God that is beyond words.



## CHALLENGE ACCEPTED

Our collection for [Rahab Ministries](#) starts Sunday and continues through October 30. During the special combined service held at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Greg Colbeck challenged churches to collect some much needed items for the ministry, which serves victims of human trafficking/sex trafficking. New Initiatives accepted that challenge, and is now asking for your help.

Here is the list of items we've been asked to collect. It is slightly different than the list on RAHAB's website. The list presented to the churches focuses on things they need more of right now. So, while shampoo is accepted, it's not on this list:

Body wash (full-sized)  
Conditioner (full-sized)  
Bras & underwear  
Toilet paper

Lotion (full-sized)  
Ethnic hair care (full-sized)  
Deodorant  
Paper towels

(Ethnic hair care products can be found at chain discount or drug stores like Target, Walmart or Walgreens.) If you are not a big shopper but want to make a contribution, consider giving a gift card. The preferred cards are Aldi, Amazon and Walmart. If you would like to give a gift card, you can put it into the offering plate or the envelope in the office. Please see Nancy Williams if you have any questions.

- Reesá Mathews



## **AAIC Meeting Tuesday, October 4, 12:00 -1:30 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church**

2726 W. Market St.

The meeting will be in the youth room. Go in through the parking lot in the back. You can also join by Zoom. A link will be sent out soon. Items being discussed are updates on the Anti-Semitism forums, the Sojourner Truth Project in Akron, and the Abolition of the Death Penalty forum. There will also be a preliminary discussion of the 2023 Hunger Walk, which will be May 7, 2023. (NCCC will be involved once again. We had a highly successful 2022 collection and number of walkers.)

## **MEMORY LANE**

Here are a couple of pictures from last year's Trunk-or-Treat. We are hoping for a bigger turnout this year of trunks and treaters.



## **HOT DOG ROAST**

Be sure to sign-up for the upcoming hot dog roast. The event is set for this coming **Thursday, October 6** at **5:30 p.m.**, at the church. The Fellowship Committee needs you to sign up by Sunday, and put your side or dessert on the list. The committee will work around the weekly PNC meeting, so as not to disturb that process.



## **FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wednesday, October 26  
10:30 a.m.**

Fellowship Hall  
Christmas and early 2023 activities are on the agenda. Everyone is welcome. For those not on this small committee, let Nancy Williams know if you wish to attend.

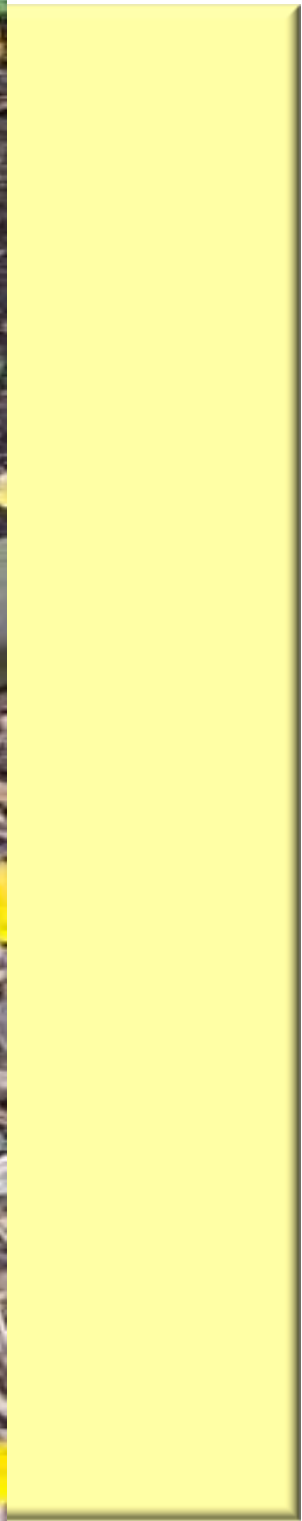
## **ANNUAL TRUNK-OR-TREAT Saturday, October 29 5:00-6:00 p.m. NCCC Parking Lot**

Plan to arrive by 4:45 to park your car and set up. Remember to provide your own candy. Decorate your car and come in a costume if you want. Shortly after 6:00, we will proceed to Mustard Seed in Highland Square for supper. Sign the sheet, in the coming weeks, to indicate your participation





NCCCMission Garden  
September 22, 2022 Harvest  
12 Tomatoes; 2 Bags Green Beans;  
1 Green Pepper



**SAVE YOUR ACME RECEIPTS DATED  
BETWEEN AUGUST 4 - DECEMBER 24,  
2022, AND DROP THEM OFF AT CHURCH**

**EARN 5%**   
**COMMUNITY CASH BACK**  
For Your Local Non-Profit Group!

# FAITH LEADERS BREAKFAST

ISSUE 10 AKRON CHARTER AMENDMENT  
TO IMPROVE POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS

**FAITH LEADERS OF ALL TRADITIONS ARE INVITED**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 8:00AM

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AKRON

292 EAST MARKET STREET, AKRON OH 44313

RSVP TO [INFO@YESONISSUE10.COM](mailto:INFO@YESONISSUE10.COM)

HOSTED BY ISSUE 10 PETITIONERS

REV. DR. RODERICK POUNDS

REV. DR. JOYCE PENFIELD

REV. RAYMOND GREENE

REV. NANETTE PITT

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INFORMATION SHARING, INTERFAITH PRAYER, AND COMMUNITY BUILDING!**

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PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

SEPTEMBER 4 - OCTOBER 2, 2022

Our gifts to the  
Peace & Global Witness Offering  
draw Presbyterians together  
as active peacemakers,  
to address systems of injustice  
in our own communities  
and across the world.



To sign "Peace" in ASL,  
touch your palms together,  
then rotate them in opposite directions  
and away from each other.



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

9/4-  
10/2  
2022

*World Communion Sunday—October 2, 2022*