

S U M M E R 2 0 1 9

THE LIGHTHOUSE

Your quarterly newsletter featuring recent highlights in the life of your church.



mission 101

Avon Lake U.C.C.

This year marked the inauguration of "Mission 101" - a mission experience for 6th and 7th graders to experience fun, service, worship, and life-changing moments. From June 30th - July 4th students and adults slept, ate, and worshipped together at the church, and travelled each day to serve those in need in Lorain County. Mission 101 partnered with Next Step Ministries for service opportunities.

Why Mission 101? Pastor Beau hoped to give this age group the opportunity to serve like the older kids do, and, more importantly, to expose them to needs right here in Lorain County.

Mission 101 was about work AND worship, and the kids joined in meaningful worship together as they explored their faith in new ways.

God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.

1 Peter 4: 10 NLT





Kelly + Staff ~

6.5.19

We can't thank you enough for sharing your entire church campus with us for RTC. Your gracious and helpful staff always go out of their way to accommodate us and we are grateful. It is an honor to get to lead such an amazing group of people and see them unite our community for such an important cause. The Samuels Family are lucky to belong to such a generous church community. Sincerely, Dena Fisher

Summer Vacation for Mission Team? Their Work Continues!

Good works by the Mission Team continued over the summer. The Team collected Snack Bags for Community Resource Services (CRS) to distribute to children who miss out on school lunches over the summer. The Team also coordinated a Clothe-a-Kid drive for Love Inc. to help Lorain County school children in need. The Team was able to clothe 45 children this year!



Bike and Build Returns for 17th Year



We welcomed 25 tired and hungry riders this summer and offered the hospitality of pool passes at the city pool, a potluck dinner, beds to sleep in, and a hot breakfast the next morning. The riders were very complimentary about their stay, and mentioned how beautiful the ride through the Cleveland area was.

Bike & Build engages young adults in service-oriented cycling trips to raise money and awareness for the affordable housing cause. It is a once-in-a-lifetime experience that fosters a sustained connection to community. They advocate for the need for affordable housing in thousands of communities across the country.

A blog about the northern route riders' experience is on the web at <https://nus2019.home.blog/>



Senior High Mission Trip - Back to Slidell, Louisiana

#shmissiontrip2019 #epworthproject #backtothebayou
#servingjesus #bestweekever



"For complete strangers to open up their houses for us to do God's work was incredible. By the end of the week both the home owners and us were touched in is so many ways. We were pushed physically, mentally, spiritually and socially but everyone rose above these challenges and worked to do God's work this week. It's an amazing experience that I hope everyone has the opportunity to experience sometime in their lives." -- Mission Trip Participant

And the Mission Central Work Continues - Junior High Mission Trip to Cincinnati

Dan Walther led a group of 38 youth and adult volunteers to Washington UCC to serve the community in fun, food, and fellowship.

"Life changing and eye opening. It was truly a different experience than other camps or trips I've been on. I think I helped more people this week than I have in my whole life." -- Mission Trip Participant



"I loved talking to the people and getting to know their story. It's so easy for us to just assume they do drugs because of the way they look. Most of the people I talked with had so much to say and so much amazing advice to give. I really hope I can do that somewhere near me."

"It was life-changing, eye-opening, and so much fun."



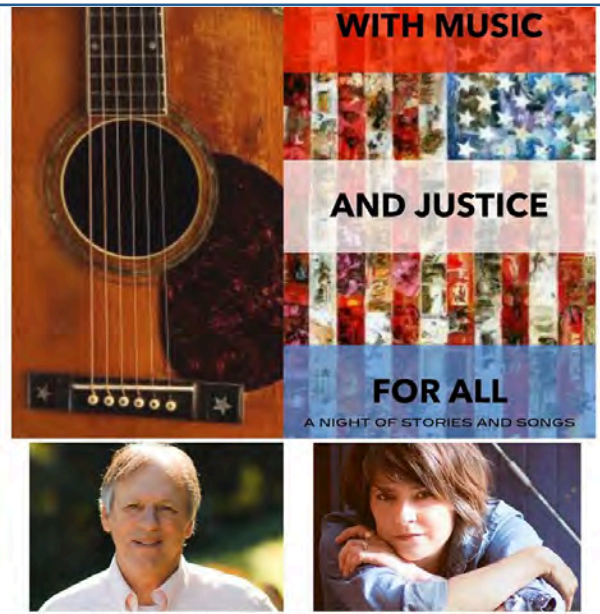
Film Fest with *Labyrinth* and *One Last Summer*

We were treated to two interesting films and engaging conversations this summer. The Film Fest started with *Labryrith*, a short documentary made by students at St. Edward High School and the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center. The film featured interviews with women about life experiences with sexual harassment, and generated an interesting and lively multi-generational discussion following the film.

The Film Fest continued with *One Last Summer*, the brainchild of our Director of Youth Ministries, Nate Taylor. *One Last Summer* was made by Kent State University students, and tells the story of the development, history, and eventual sale of the Pilgrim Hills UCC Church Camp. Many ALUCC members contributed to the production costs of the film. This film also generated an interesting question and answer session on the camp that held such a special place in the hearts of many in the UCC community.

Mission Work Continues in the Dominican Republic

Bev and Bill Stives travelled to the Caribbean to volunteer at a VBS Summer Camp again this year. The photos show a special meal for Haitian orphans (no rice and beans that day!), and Bill helping children with crafts at the Camp. Later in the week Bev and Bill helped host a VBS camp for over 175 children.

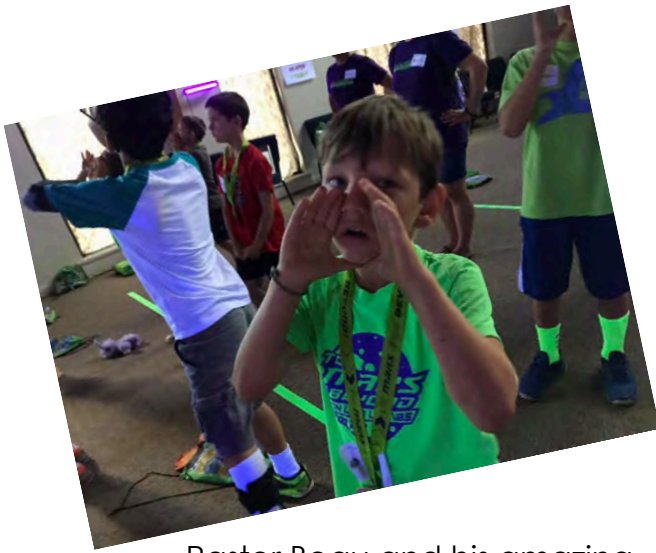


We were blessed to have Anne E. DeChant and friends

spend the July Fourth weekend with us. Anne E. hosted a songwriting workshop for high school students, and then rocked out in the Sanctuary with an evening of music paired with readings on justice from Southern author Frye Gaillard's new book, *A Hard Rain: America in the 1960s, Our Decade of Hope, Possibility, and Innocence Lost*. The workshop resonated with the students, and the concert, which included Anne E's band, was AMAZING! Anne E. may be coming back to offer the workshop again for local students....STAY TUNED!



Vacation Bible School 2019



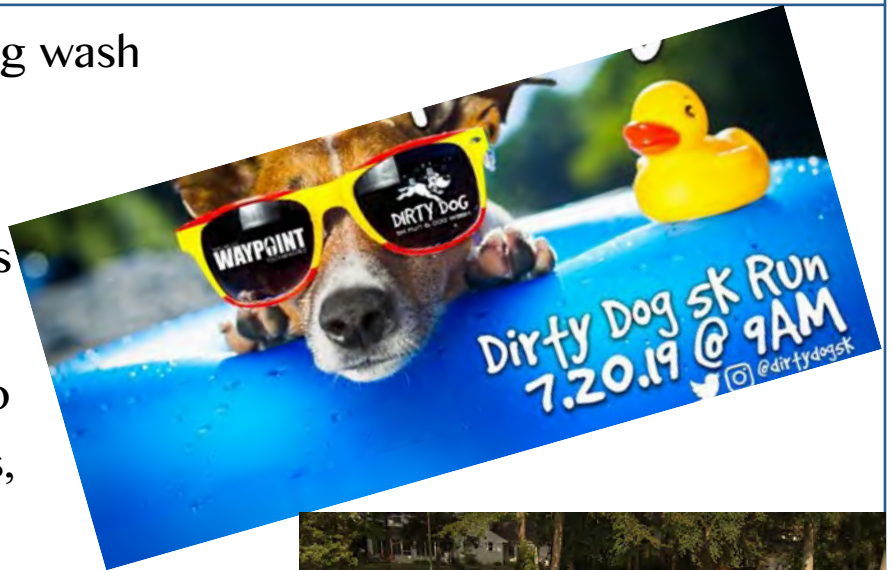
Pastor Beau and his amazing crew of volunteers (including a robot and a cast of intergalactic stars) transformed the Chapel for a trip to Mars and beyond and welcomed 124 children to a week of VBS this summer. The children had a wonderful week of fun, faith, and fellowship! VBS filled up the first day registrations were open, so be sure to watch next spring for info on how and when to sign up.



What's summer without a dog wash and a 5K?

Nate and the youth washed 30 dogs and had 200 runners participate!

Grateful thanks go to all who donated items, washed dogs, brought their dogs, ran, or helped in any way with this fundraiser for our Youth Ministries!



You have probably noticed how nice the church looks this summer - that did not happen without the dedicated work of our custodial staff (thanks Diane and Dave!) and also hours of work put in by wonderful volunteers.

This summer Bob and Donna Case, Barb and Hal Wherley, Cathy Harvey, and Jan Mackert spent hours cleaning the church windows - inside and out! They are sparkling!

The grounds have also been lovingly tended by our Gardening Team, Sharon Parsons, Sandy Dibbell, and Peg Kneiss, and by the Property Brothers

Landscaping Crew, headed up by CJ Jasany, with assistants Moses Yonkers, Tom Rafferty, Jim Tanzilli, Luke Witzigreuter, Logan Kimbler, Tom Ferchau and Pete Barth. Thanks also go to Eileen Zakel, Julie Marlin, and Beth Gee for caring for the Secret Garden.

Many Thanks for All You Do!



5TH ANNUAL WEEKEND OF SERVICE

Avon Lake UCC hosted the 5th annual (YES - 5th!) Weekend of Service. 352 volunteers contributed 650 hours to the following projects:



Blood Donation for the American Red Cross, Food Packing at Second Harvest Food Bank, Farm Help at Multiple Breed Rescue in Grafton, Ohio, Baked Ziti Dinner at Beach Park Tower, Work at the new ALUCC Good Neighbor Thrift Shop, and a Cookout in Vermilion for Road to Hope residents and their families!



"...if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday." Isaiah 58:10

Youth Ministries Senior Excursion - one last weekend with faith buddies

#seniorexcursion2019 #alleghenynationalforest #freshairtherapy
#getoutside #neverstopexploring



"I got to relax and recharge as I head off into a huge new chapter of my life. I think this weekend was very important and any upcoming senior should take the challenge and ride in a van for four hours with Nate and Reagan to camp in a tent."



"After this weekend, I feel even more comfortable going to college because I know that these people will always be here for me and will always bring out the adventure and courageous side of me."

"[T]HE TRIP WAS FUN, AND RELAXING, AND PROVIDED A GREAT CHANCE FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT MY FAITH JOURNEY THIS FAR AND HOW FAR I'VE COME THE PAST 18 YEARS."

Lovely Additions to our Memorial Garden



Since the last Lighthouse, we mourn the passing of the following members and friends:

Isy Beal
Peg Ebner
Cara Burgess
Mike Storch

Jerry Murphy
Robert J. Robinson
Marilyn Wilcox
Marion Russell

And we celebrate the following baptisms:

*Anna Marie Chiricosta
Elenora Agnes Figliuzzi*



SAVE THE DATES!

FALL CROSS TRAINING

Oct 2- Nov. 6,
Wednesdays
6 PM Dinner and
Worship
7 PM Classes

FALL FEST October 6

**WOMEN'S
RETREAT**
October 19-20 at
Templed Hills

APOLLO'S FIRE CONCERT October 20

MEN'S RETREAT
October 26-27
at Temple Hills