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THE Messenger

THE NEWSLETTER OF KENT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST — FALL 2022

Rev. Gene Fisher Called as Sabbatical Pastor

The Rev. Gene Fisher will serve as Kent UCC's sabbatical pastor while Pastor Amy is on sabbatical. His first Sunday with us will be August 14.

Upon early retirement, The Rev. Tyrone Eugene Fisher has engaged in interim pastoral ministry. Most recently, he served as the Interim Pastor of Good Shepherd Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Macedonia, OH (2019-20); Fifth Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Cleveland, OH (2020-21); and St. Paul's Community Church - UCC in Ohio City (Cleveland), OH (2021). Prior to early retirement, Gene was the Vice President for Customer Care for the Pension Fund of the Christian Church (2006-2018). In this capacity, he gave primary leadership to interacting with all Stone-Campbell related institutions, recruiting Pension Plan members, encouraging participation in other programs and services of the Pension Fund, and leading seminars and workshops to enhance services for all constituencies



within the Church. Also, he assisted with Ministerial Relief & Assistance activities and the development of enrichment programs for clergy and other church professionals.

Previously, Gene was the Minister of Reconciliation for Reconciliation Mission of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada (2001-2006) where he served as the executive director to the Disciples racial reconciliation and justice ministry. Gene has served in large, medium, and small

church environments.

Continued on p. 2

Our Mission:

Enlivened by the grace of Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, Kent United Church of Christ does justice, embraces faithful love, and walks humbly with our God to serve and transform lives, our community and the world. (Micah 6:8)

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A SPACE FOR GRACE

Beloved Church,

I begin my sabbatical on August 9. You will enjoy our sabbatical pastor, Rev. Gene Fisher, while I am away. The church is also in the capable and compassionate hands of our moderator and Council, the Diaconate and Stephen Ministers, and dedicated staff. Pastor Gene will be with you through November 20.

“Sabbath” is a Hebrew word שָׁבַת meaning “to rest, to cease.” On the day of Sabbath, God invites us to cease our work, daily routines and activities, just as God did, “Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done (Genesis 2:3).

We have a Sabbath day at the end of every week, and the book of Leviticus also refers to a Sabbath year when the land was to lay fallow. To “remember the Sabbath” is to remember that God is Creator and Sustainer of our lives and of the world. We are partners with God, co-creators of an ongoing creation, but we cannot sustain ourselves or the world on our own. A sabbatical is an extended sabbath observed over a longer period of time; it is prolonged rest.

My time of sabbatical will be a season of rest, reflection, reconnecting, and renewal. I will spend time in the UK, France, and Bosnia and Herzegovina—resting, relaxing, and on spiritual pilgrimage. My flight from Sarajevo back to Ohio will get me home in time for Thanksgiving with my family and a few days to transition back to my life here. I return to the pulpit on the first Sunday of Advent, November 27.

My sincere hope is that it will also be an opportunity for you as a congregation to reflect and to explore what sabbath means in your own lives. I believe that God’s prayer for us is to be in prayer with one another during this time apart so as to go even more deeply into the heart of what it means to be connected by the Holy Spirit within and between us.

May you be blessed with rest and renewal in the Holy One,

Pastor Amy



When You
Need a
Sabbatical

hotholyhumorous.com



Rev. Fisher (Continued from page 1)

While attending seminary, he served as Youth Pastor of Oasis of Hope Baptist Church (1985-86) and later as the Executive Pastor of Light of the World Christian Church (1987-1991), both in Indianapolis, IN. After ordination to ministry, he served as the Pastor of Faith United Christian Church, Canton, OH (1991-1998), and the Senior Pastor of Centennial Christian Church, St. Louis, MO (1998-2001). He has had the privilege to serve each of the communities through a wide array of ecumenical, interfaith, and community-related organizations.

A native of Columbus, Ohio, Gene was raised and an active member of Woodland Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). As a young person, he served in many leadership capacities in the congregation, as well as the Ohio Region. He received his Bachelor Science in Business Administration (Human Resources) from Franklin University in Columbus, OH (1985) and received a Master of Divinity degree from Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, IN (1990). He was ordained by the Indiana Region at Light of the World Christian Church (1991).

He is married to Dr. Angela McDonald-Fisher who is senior legal counsel for a Fortune 100 corporation. He has three children. Two adults who are productively making a difference in the world (Faythe and Tyrone Jr.) and one fifth grader (Gabby).

Portage County NAACP Office Dedication



May 22 was a special day, not just for the Portage County NAACP, but for Kent UCC in the life of our church Pastor Amy, after being moved so deeply by the death of George Floyd in May of 2020, reached out to Dr. Geraldine Nelson asking if there was anything we could do to support the NAACP. Dr. Nelson told Pastor Amy they needed a physical office. Somewhere they would be supported 1000%. Almost 2 years to the date of George Floyd's death, the Portage County NAACP office was dedicated here in their new home at Kent UCC.

The service of dedication was led by our own Rev. Amy Gopp. Joining us in this special celebration were the Rev. Dr. Velda Love, UCC Minister for Racial Justice in Cleveland; Rev.

Michael Howard, minister of Faith in Action at the UCC Living Water Association; Dr. Geraldine Nelson (former Portage County NAACP president); current president; Renee Romine; Jeff Roeger, moderator Kent UCC; NAACP secretary, Jen Case; and communications chair Frank Hairston.

Following the service, a fundraiser for the King Kennedy Center was held. Food was catered by Neil Duke's Pit Stop Pub in Kent. During the fundraiser, guest speakers included: Jacquie Peoples Dukes who read from her recently published book of poetry about the neighborhood she grew up in here in Kent, and Myia Sanders who is the director of the King Kennedy Center.

An article in The Portager covering the event can be found here: <https://theportager.com/portage-county-naacp-dedicates-new-office-in-kent-with-a-celebration-and-fundraiser/>



The Social Justice and Advocacy Committee and Outreach Ministry would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to all who were involved in the worship service, NAACP office dedication, and King Kennedy Center fundraiser dinner on May 22nd. We were so blessed as a congregation to host the Portage County NAACP executive board officers, members of the local Black community, Kishna Fowler, Rev. Dr. Velda Love, and Rev. Michael Howard. If you were present, you likely felt God's Spirit through the words, songs, poems and prayers we experienced together. What an unforgettable day as we took one more step forward in our mission to advocate for racial justice as Jesus calls us to do.

For more information on the Portage County NAACP, go to: <https://www.portagecountynaacp.com/>

Farewell from Pastor Kim

Dear friends in Christ,

It has been a joy doing ministry with you over the past four years. As my time at Kent UCC comes to a close, I have been reflecting on our time together and wanted to express my deepest gratitude for all the major (and minor!) life events you have seen me through during my ministry with you. Since I began in August 2018, I've been married, ordained, become a parent, and lived through a global pandemic. In my thirteen years of doing ministry in local churches, this has been the most change I've experienced in one place, and the way you've celebrated and held space for me through it all has been incredible. There are many things I will not forget, including participating with you in the 2019 Kent Memorial Day parade, dressing up as recyclops for our Green VBS at First Christian in 2019, my very first Last Supper experience in Sunday school, pandemic Compassion Camp videos on my front porch, leading my first Confirmation classes, and mission trips to Puerto Rico and Arizona. I feel our ministry together has been fruitful, and I hope you feel that way, too. God be with you 'til we meet again.

Sincerely,

Rev. Kim Nagy



Confirmation

On Sunday, July 31, we confirmed two young people in their faith at Kent United Church of Christ. Confirmation is a point on a person's faith journey that marks a commitment that they are making their faith their own. Andrew Rickelman and Simon Hassler stood in front of our church family to reaffirm their baptism and share their statements of faith. We are so proud of them! Congratulations, Simon and Andrew!

Andrew Rickelman is the son of Amy and Marty Rickelman and brother of Ryan. He will be a freshman at Stow-Munroe Falls High School in the fall. Andrew's confirmation mentor was Frank Hairston. Andrew's confirmation scripture is: "I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus." -Philippians 3:14



Simon Hassler is the son of Lynn and David Hassler and brother of Ella. He will be a freshman at Theodore Roosevelt High School in Kent in the fall. Simon's confirmation mentor was Glenn Hanniford. Simon's confirmation scripture is: "This is my commandment: love each other just as I have loved you." -John 15:12

Vacation Bible School 2022

Lovingkindness! You could hear nearly thirty children and over twenty volunteers shout this with their best superhero stance from the sanctuary of First Christian Church all week July 11-14. We enjoyed a fantastic week of Compassion Camp Vacation Bible School with our Disciples of Christ friends across town. We learned how to care for other people and care for ourselves. These are both ways we can love God with our whole hearts! We sang songs, heard Bible stories, practiced yoga, played games, made crafts, ate snacks, and collected over 200 school supplies for Kent Social Services. Thank you to Jodi Stilliano and FCC for hosting us this year.

Thank you to our volunteers from Kent UCC:

Emily Roeger - Song Leader

Eileen West - Recreation Leader

Noah Dunlap - Recreation Leader

Sue Hetrick - Yoga Leader

Barb, Glenn, and Owen Hanniford - Snack Helpers

Sarah Ketchum - Registration Extraordinaire

Sarah, Maya, and Arlo Haren - Crew Leaders

Kathryn Mudrak - Crew Leader

Eli Case - Crew Leader

Grant Smith - Crew Leader

Brigid Brennan - Crew Leader

Leah Bennington - Crew Leader



United Youth Force and Immigration Justice

(High School Ministry)

In June nine members of our high school youth group, United Youth Force, spent a week in Tucson, Arizona, learning about immigration justice with an organization called BorderLinks. We learned about the timeline of immigration, the process of “legal” immigration today, dropped water along a popular desert migrant trail, and visited the wall on the US-Mexico border. It was an emotionally heavy week that we balanced with fun, including learning how to make pupusas with our cook, Eddie, participating in a thrift shop fashion show, and visiting the Sonoran Desert Museum. Upon their return, several members led a worship service on June 26 to share their experiences. Thank you to Missy Polcha, our parent volunteer, for helping Pastor Kim Nagy lead this trip, and thank you, Kent UCC, for making this trip possible for us!



Trip Participants:

Grace Polcha
Ben Pazderak
Cooper Liedtke
Ryan Barkley
Jo Mothersbaugh
Annie Liedtke
Noah Dunlap
Natalie Roeger
Zoe Bailey
Missy Polcha
Kim Nagy



H2 (Homework + Mental Health) - A Mental Health Peer Support Program for Youth

As part of their work with the WISE Team, Grace Polcha and Tracey Lohman said that one of their peers' greatest stressors regarding mental health was school work. To have a place where teenagers could come to do homework and have help from other peers and adults would be a great benefit. Thus, H2 was born! H2 will begin Thursday, September 1 in the youth area in the lower level of our building. Community youth are invited to come from 6-7:30 to do homework, get help with homework, and participate in a WISE mental health practice. Spread the word! We also need your help. If you're interested in being present with youth on Thursday nights, please sign up [HERE](#).



Dan Mothersbaugh ~ UYF Advisor

New Advisors Coming to Youth Groups This Fall

Exciting times for our United Youth Force! With the start of school, we have new leadership with Dan Mothersbaugh as advisor along with Amy Rickelman, Missy Polcha and Sam Madden providing support.

Meetings will continue to be held Sunday evenings. Officers met with Kim, prior to her departure to plan a full calendar of gatherings and events for fall semester!



Jen and Josh Case ~ J-Walkers

J-Walkers, under the leadership of Jenn and Josh Case, look forward to an active season, as well. More details to come from both dynamic youth groups in our church!

Property Ministry Update

Our Property Ministry is a small group of people responsible for maintaining the 30,000 square feet of building space we call our church home and the 3-1/2 acres upon which it sits.



Property Committee

From time to time we co-op others to help with our tasks, such as the May Spring Cleanup. Thanks to George Dietz and Pat Ray for organizing the cleanup and for those supporters whose many hands made the task proceed quickly. Also, thanks to those who have assisted by keeping the flower beds beautiful throughout the seasons.

Many of our tasks are less visible but just as important, such as Performing and Coordinating local and state inspections of fire extinguishers, our elevator, furnaces and emergency lighting.

If you have an interest in gardening, woodworking or are good at knowing how to get things fixed, we have a place for you on our committee. Thanks to all who have assisted us in the past to provide a safe and inviting place of worship.

Kent UCC Endowment Fund FAQ

~ *Ralph Kletzien*

Here is what you should know about the Endowment Fund of the Kent UCC:

The Endowment was established in 1975 with a contribution of \$100. AS of 12/31/21, its value was \$923,482. Contributions from members/friends have been made to one of more of its designated funds almost every year since 1975. Endowment contributions are invested in relatively conservative sources and earnings are then available each year on a rolling 3-year calculated basis. The Endowment is governed by a board of eight persons appointed by Church Council.

The designated funds are:

General Fund (Est. 1975) – earnings from this fund are used to help support the operating budget of the church. 12/31/21 balance was \$649,144. For the 2022 budget \$30,844 was allocated.

Dorothy Parsons Music Fund (Est. 1976) – earnings from this fund are available to support the music program. 12/31/21 balance was \$57,075. \$2,688 has been allocated for 2022.

Anna Randle Truog Organ Fund (Est. 1994) – earnings from this fund are for maintenance, care or upgrade of the current organ and/or the purchase of a new organ. 12/31/21 balance was \$88,202. \$4,039 has been allocated for 2022.

United Youth Fellowship Fund (Est. 1999) – Earnings from this fund are to support UYF activities. 12/31/21 balance was \$42,313. \$1,940 has been allocated for 2022 and utilized for the 2022 youth trip.

Ralph Moore Scholarship Fund (Est. 2000) Earnings from this fund are support scholarships for choir participants. 12/31/21 balance was \$33,761. \$1,574 has been allocated for 2022.

Harlan and Irene Hungerford Scholarship Fund (Est. 1991) Earnings from this fund are to support two college scholarships, one a Kent UCC member and the other an international student if possible. 12/31/21 balance was \$27,364. \$1,337 has been allocated for 2022.

David Vaughn Fund (Est. 2006) Earnings from fund are to assist with expenses for an individual or larger group who have a short term or long term handicap issue. 12/31/21 balance was \$25,623. \$1,174 has been allocated for 2022.

Barker-Cooley Fund (Est. 2022) Earnings from this fund are to support the Social Justice/Advocacy Ministries and the Mental Health Ministries in conjunction with the W.I.S.E. Covenant. 12/31/21 balance was 0. Allocations will be made from this fund when it is fully funded.

Contributions to one or more of the Endowment Funds can be made at anytime. Please address and send your check to the **Kent UCC Endowment Fund** (Attn: Treasurer) at the church. This is a wonderful way to honor someone and/or invest in a issue meaningful to you.

Barker-Cooley Endowment Fund Being Established

Don Cooley is establishing a new fund in the Kent UCC Endowment in memory of Fritz Barker. To be known as the Barker-Cooley Fund, its purpose will be to support our church's Social Justice/Advocacy Ministries and the Mental Health Ministries (in conjunction with the W.I.S.E Covenant). While Don is initially establishing this fund, anyone else can contribute to the fund. To do so, make your check payable to the Kent UCC Endowment Fund and send it to the Endowment's Treasurer at the church. We are very grateful to Don for this remembrance of Fritz, for his generosity and for this support of the church's mission.

Ukraine Updates Across the UCC

With our ongoing support of Ukraine, we want to share this update from the UCC Ukraine Emergency Appeal:

The UCC is committed to responding to the needs of all who are affected by the violence in Ukraine,” said the Rev Josh Baird, UCC Global HOPE team leader. The church members’ generous support for the UCC’s Ukraine Appeal has raised more than \$1.6 million. Our financial support enables partners to adapt on the ground as needs emerge, Baird said. “And we are committed to be present today and into the future.”

Over \$125,000 sent recently supports partners in the ecumenical collaborative. This helps support a spectrum of services including food, shelter, medical care, WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene), spiritual and psychological care, protection and more, especially in Ukraine, Poland, Hungary and Romania.

Global H.O.P.E. sends a monthly email update. Check it out here: <https://www.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/>.



Jurij Fedynskyj—Traditional Ukrainian Musician Performs

Traditional Ukrainian musician Jurij Fedynskyj performed a free concert and sacred song service in our Chapel on Wednesday, July 6 at 7:30pm to a packed house. There was also a meet and greet before the concert.

Since the war broke out in Ukraine, Jurij has been performing for refugees and soldiers with his small group of musicians across Ukraine, Canada, and the United States. He performs the spiritual

and historical songs of Ukraine to give moral support and inspiration during trying times. Jurij’s program includes sacred music as well as general folklore, Kozak songs, some English Renaissance music, but mostly a traditional Ukrainian ‘Kobzar’ repertoire. He performed with instruments he built in his home workshop located in Poltava, Ukraine.

This free concert was open to the public and was a collaboration with the Standing Rock Cultural Arts organization of Kent as part of their “Music Around the World” series to host this peacebuilding and musical event.





~ Jackie Peck

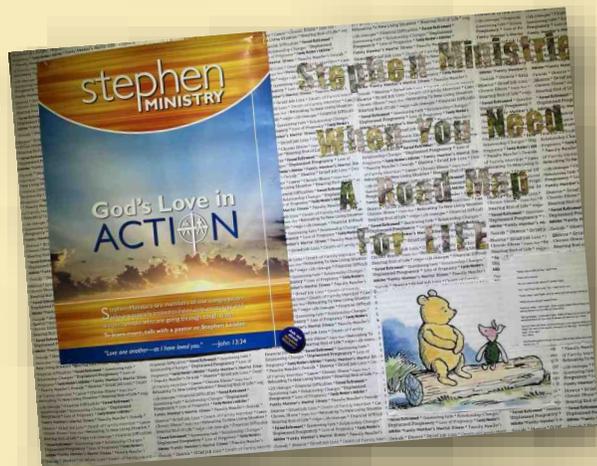
Two teens attending an alternative high school were overheard talking. As one of the staff members walked by, the student who was new to the school asked the other teen, "Who is that?" She replied, "That's the social worker. She's really good. She just listens."

That's what being supportive is all about. Listening. When we're hurting emotionally or mentally or spiritually, it helps to tell our story in a safe, judgment-free space. It helps to have a compassionate listener who honors our lived experience by listening.



~ Sue Otterson, Stephen Ministry

Have you noticed the new Stephen Ministries bulletin board in the hallway across from the choir room and between the new Pastoral Care office and the Minister of Faith Formation office? Information about Stephen Ministry will be there, and right now, there is a Winnie the Pooh story that illustrates the essence of a relationship between a Stephen Minister and a Care Receiver, and a background made of words that show situations for why someone may need a Stephen Minister. Take a look at the board, and soon there will be spotlights on each of our Stephen Ministers. And speaking of Stephen Ministers, we are beginning our next training class in September. There will be an informational meeting about Stephen Ministry after Worship on September 18. See Sue Otterson or one of the Stephen Ministers if you would like to take the class.



SHARE A BOOK

~ Sue Otterson, Vice Moderator



Two books I highly recommend are *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* (2019) and *The Book Woman's Daughter* (2022) by Kim Michele Richardson. Cussy is a young woman in Troublesome Creek, Kentucky in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains.

The first book begins in the late 1930's with Cussy facing nearly insurmountable odds as both a young woman in poverty and being part of the blue-skinned people living in that area. The blue skin comes from a genetic condition, methemoglobinemia, but people of the time saw it as a sign of evil. Cussy becomes a pack-horse librarian with her contentious mule, Junia. You cannot help but fall in love with that mule through Cussy's story, and then continued in the story of her daughter, Honey in the second book. The story of the pack-horse librarian program, the descriptions of the Appalachian people, the challenges of the mining and mountain life, and especially the racism towards the blue-skinned people are riveting. The story of Cussy's marriage, and then her incarceration in the sequel are both joyful and then heartbreaking. Follow the joy and pain of Cussy and Honey through more than twenty years in these two books that are hard to put down.



Community OUTREACH



~ Donna Hess, Outreach Ministry

May 22 was a very special day for Kent UCC for several reasons. We heard a stirring message from Dr. Velda Love in our worship service, we dedicated the NAACP office that is now located in our church, and we held a successful fundraiser for the King Kennedy Center gym project. We shared our table with our larger community, feasted on great food, heard about the King Kennedy project, listened to Jacquie Peoples Dukes share her poetry about growing up in the South End, and raised \$1600 for the

gym project. This is in addition to the \$1500 the Outreach Ministry had already sent earlier this year. Kent UCC has helped played an important role in getting this significant community project up and running. It will benefit so many in our local community. The Outreach and Social Justice Ministries are very grateful to our congregation who continue to share their time, talent, and treasures with others.

This summer Outreach members and other church volunteers have been working with the Ben Curtis Foundation in preparing summer food distribution and getting Birdie Bags ready for the fall. This effort will continue every Friday through mid-August. Thank you to all who have helped.

As grocery bills continue to rise, many in our community are struggling to feed their families. Kent Social Services has been challenged to meet the demands, and at one point this summer ran out of food. Outreach wants to remind members that we continue to take non-perishable food and other necessary household items over to KSS every month. Please continue to bring your donations and place them in the grocery cart near the lower lobby. Thank you!

This fall Outreach will be busy helping some of our significant community partners with fundraisers and other funding needs. So far this year, we have helped the SARA organization working in Ukraine, the Freedom House in Ravenna, King Kennedy Center, and Hartville Migrant Ministry. In addition, we have successfully completed 20 Clean Up buckets for disaster relief and have sent donations to One Great Hour of Sharing and Strengthen the Church. We also have plans this fall to send hygiene bags for the Wider Church's disaster relief program. Watch for more information on this later.

Wherever there is need, there the church should be.



~ Jackie Peck, Chair

*It's not just about
communion anymore!*

Perhaps the most visible way Deacons minister in the church is by preparing and serving the extravagant, sacred meal instituted by Jesus, the Christ. Truly, this is one of the most meaningful ways we serve.

But Deacons minister "behind the scenes" too. We are called to assist the Pastor in giving physical, emotional, and spiritual care to members of the congregation in need. Sometimes we deliver Sunday's flowers to bring cheer to someone not able to attend church in person. Sometimes we take prayer shawls and holding crosses to those experiencing pain and loss. And often we take ourselves, and pray with those seeking peace and the limitless love of God.

These too are most meaningful ways to serve. And we always come away feeling we've been received much more than we've given. That's how being in God's service works.

It is an honor and blessing to partner in ministry with you in these ways. Thanks be to God!



Stewardship

~ Crystal Shanley, Chair

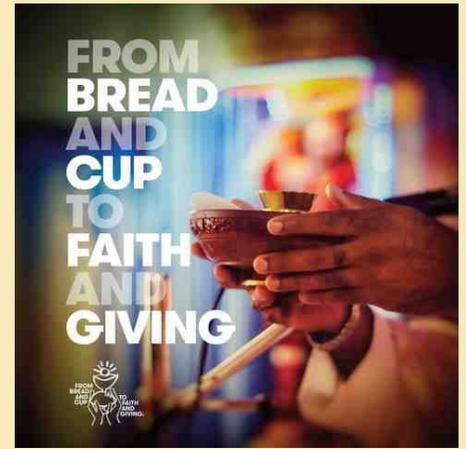
Stewardship Ministry is happy to introduce our church family & friends to the 2022 Annual Drive: From Bread and Cup, to Faith and Giving. We invite you to explore the ways you can give monetarily to the church during our Annual Stewardship Ministry Drive to kick off this fall.

Please join us for our Stewardship Ministry on Sunday, September 25th in the sanctuary to help us "kick off" our Annual Drive that will run through Sunday, October 30th which will be dedication Sunday; where we welcome the gifts and offerings for our church.

Our ministry will be sending information through the mail to each of our church members, look for that packet the week of September 18th as well as providing information in the Sunday service bulletins throughout the drive.

All questions are welcomed, please contact chair Crystal Shanley call/text (330) 607-1753 or find her in the pews on Sunday mornings.

Thank you for your support as we make our way through the spiritual journey of our church... from bread and cup to faith and giving!



Chancel Choir invites you to join...

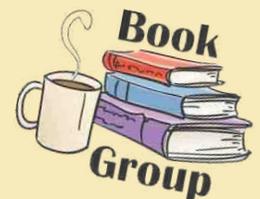
for just ONE Sunday! ~ Corey Fowler, director of music

Our Chancel Choir will start rehearsing for the 2022-2023 choir year on Thursday, September 1 at 7:30p.m. in the choir room. We invite all those who are interested in singing with the choir to join us in raising their voices in joyful song! However, we know that many people struggle with the extra time commitment of singing in a choir and that is a limiting factor in people joining. NEW for this year is "**Make a Joyful Noise Sundays**" where we will invite congregants to join the choir for JUST THAT DAY! Interested singers will rehearse with the Chancel Choir at 9:00a.m. and will then sing the anthem during the 10:00a.m. worship service... No extra time commitment! Participants can still sit out in the congregation and will simply walk up to the chancel when it is time for the anthem. Our upcoming "Make a Joyful Noise Sunday" dates will be October 2, November 13, and December 11. Please keep these dates in mind if this interests you! The anthem selection will be easy enough for ALL to learn in a 45-minute rehearsal. Please talk to Corey Fowler, director of music, if you have any questions.



Kent UCC Book Group ~ Kathy Robinson

The Kent UCC book group will meet again beginning Saturday, September 17 at 6pm. At this gathering we will be putting together the list of books for further reading. Location TBA. A decision on whether to meet in person or via Zoom will be made soon. For more information, text or call Kathy Robinson at: 330-931-7591



Our Annual Rummage Sale is Back! Third try's the charm!

~ Glenn Hanniford

This year's annual rummage sale is **September 16, 9-5 and 17, 9-Noon**. We know you have been cleaning out those closets, garages, and basements during the Pandemic! Regular collection of donations will begin **after September 1 with specific days and times announced**. During those times volunteers will be available to receive donations at the church. For pickup of larger items or if storage to September 1 is a problem, you can call the church office at (330) 673-9534 or Glenn Hanniford at (330) 673-3441 and we will try to make arrangements to receive your donations. **The deadline to drop off donations is Wednesday evening, September 14.**



For the sale we **DO NOT ACCEPT** tires, computers, printers, or CRT monitors (Flat screen Monitors are ok if in working condition), propane tanks, magazines, encyclopedias, broken toys, items containing gas and/or oil, large appliances, or standard televisions. We also request that donations be clean and in good condition.

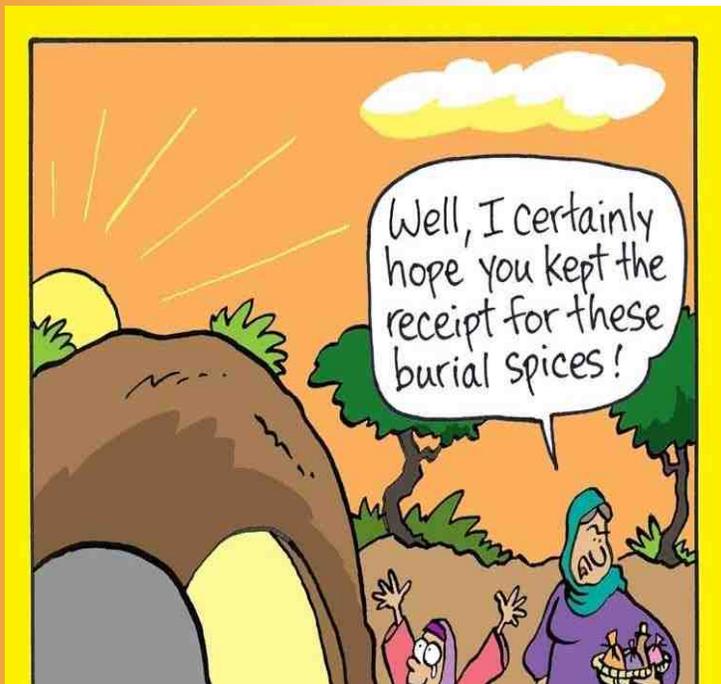
BE A VOLUNTEER. Please give some of your time to this all-church activity. This is a great opportunity to volunteer some time to the rummage sale and enjoy good fellowship and a sense of accomplishment! The main times when help is needed are (other times will be put into the weekly Update E-mail):

- From 12-3 **Sunday, September 11** for sorting items received and to begin setting up sale rooms 111-116
- **Monday, September 12** Special Large item pick up and receiving donations 5-8 p.m.
- **Tuesday, September 13** Special Large item pick up and receiving donations 5-8 p.m.
- Friday and Saturday, **September 16 and 17**—sale days—when we need workers and smiling faces to help customers, record sales, and act as a cashier for check out (a couple of hours during the sale is much appreciated as many of us still are working).
- **And most important**, we also need a bunch of folks on **Saturday, September 17 from noon to ~3pm** for pack-up and clean-up and to get the classrooms ready for use on Sunday.

Munchies and snacks will be provided for workers.

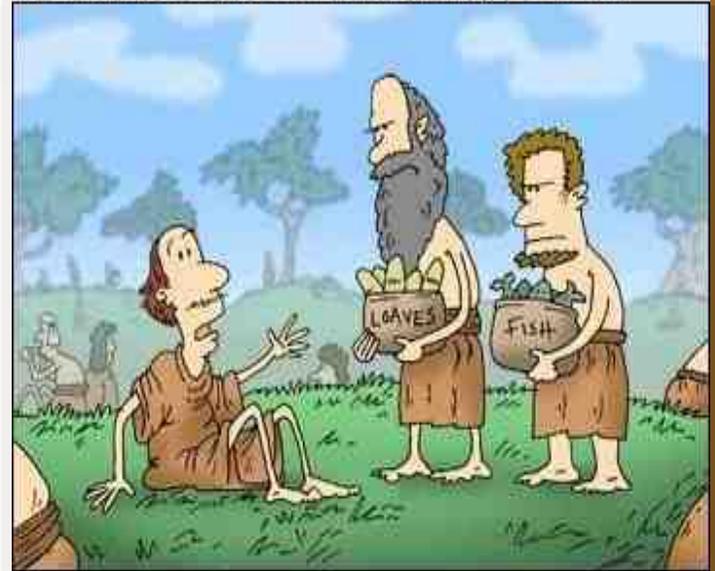
We also need volunteers who would like to provide breakfast bites or 'lunchy' munchies or money for food, be a food provider for a day, or a kitchen helper for a day. Please contact Ruth Saltzman (330-620-7296)

The rummage sale outreach activity is a great time to be with your church friends and meet new ones. To volunteer, sign-up on Signup genius (to be available in August), call the church office, speak to any committee member, look for our sign-up table after the worship service, or just show up during one of the times listed above. And please say "yes" when asked!!



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(See Matthew 14:14-21)

08-05-2011

I'M ON A NO-CARB, VEGETARIAN DIET

New Members

~ The Lowerys

Jill and Jeff have been married for 16 years and live in Cuyahoga Falls. They have 4 children. David is 13, Michael is 10, Benjamin is 9, and Grace is 4. Jill grew up in Ravenna after moving to Ohio from Southwestern Pennsylvania. Jeff grew up in Streetsboro. We were licensed foster-to-adopt parents with Stark County Children's Services for 3 ½ years. We adopted 3 of our children before our home couldn't fit any more children. Jill is currently a stay-at-home mom but is also a medical assistant. She worked for the Cleveland Clinic for 15 years in family medicine and with Akron Children's Hospital for 5 years where she was contracted out to Longcoy Elementary here in Kent. There she ran the school's clinic. Jeff is a CNC machinist with Esterle Mold and Machine in Stow where he's worked for several years. Before getting his CNC certificate he earned his bachelor's degree in music education from Kent State. Though teaching isn't his thing, he loves to play music. Jeff plays many instruments including the Bodhrán (an Irish drum), box drum, bass guitar, several brass instruments, mandolin, and spoons. He is currently a member of Northeast Ohio Men's Chorus. As a family we enjoy hiking, traveling to new places, and watching movies together.

What brought us to Kent UCC were many things. The Open and Affirming status, the social justice and advocacy committee, and community outreach. We really like the heart of the people here and look forward to being a part of this family.

Jill and Jeff joined Kent UCC on Sunday, July 24, 2022.



Jill, Jeff, David, Braylin, Benjamin, and Grace Lowery

New members continued on pages 14 & 15.

~ Katy and Kyle Reynolds, Nora and Abby

Katy grew up in Wooster, OH attending Trinity UCC.

Kyle grew up in Twinsburg, OH attending Faith UMC. They are both graduates of Bowling Green State University. Kyle also has a masters from Kent and is currently pursuing his PhD. He works for Kent State as the Director of Graduate Student Services. Katy works as a registered nurse for Cleveland Clinic in Twinsburg in the oncology infusion center. Nora just finished kindergarten at Highland Elementary School in Stow and Abby is in preschool. Both girls participate in ballet, gymnastics, and swim lessons. The Reynolds have attended Kent UCC since 2018! The Reynolds joined the church on June 5, 2022



~ Annie Geraghty and Josh Mangus



Joshua is 37 years old, from Ravenna, and is a US Army veteran. He enjoys hiking, yard work, and riding ATV's. He's looking to grow in his faith and understand God's wisdom.

Annie hails from Ashtabula County's Jefferson United Church of Christ, but moved to Ravenna to be closer to her boyfriend Josh. She is a Kent State graduate who majored in sociology and works as a case manager for the elderly. Her interests include hiking, photography, and the great outdoors. She hopes to learn more about her new church and working on moving closer with her relationship to God. Annie and Josh joined the church on June 5, 2022

~ Teresa and Addy Lay

Teresa grew up in Portage Lakes but now resides in Brimfield. She has been a licensed social worker for several years, and is excited to start her new position with Serenity Hospice later this month. Teresa loves music of any kind. She also loves nature, animals (especially her dogs), watching documentaries, swimming (she learned how to swim before she learned how to walk), pizza with anchovies, and her family.



Teresa loves the open and accepting feeling that flows throughout Kent UC. She is proud to be a part of a church where all are welcomed without judgement and a church that plays an active role in social justice issues. She would like to be more active with the W.I.S.E. team, possibly getting involved with the green team, and also maybe assisting with outreach needs to those that are home bound. Teresa joined the church on June 5, 2022.

~ Teresa and Addy Lay continued...

Addy also lives in Brimfield and will be starting her first year of high school this fall at Field. She is very athletic and plays volleyball, basketball, softball, and runs track. Addy loves all animals; even snakes and is known for picking them up in her yard and scaring her family with them. Addy would like to be a veterinarian some day and has talked about specializing in exotic pets. She loves to spend time with her tortoise, bird, and 2 dogs.

When Addy came to the church for the first time, she felt very welcomed by everyone. She noticed right away how loving and inclusive the church was. She loves how Pastor Amy makes you feel so comfortable. Addy would like to get more involved with the church and would like to be confirmed one day.

Women in the Bible

A	C	I	A	A	B	A	T	H	S	H	E	B	A
D	O	R	C	U	S	E	A	R	S	D	V	R	H
A	B	I	G	A	I	L	K	I	I	A	E	A	A
B	I	L	H	A	H	I	E	T	A	M	R	G	H
R	D	A	B	L	M	Z	Z	R	V	I	R	A	A
H	E	A	R	E	J	A	I	A	A	R	T	H	H
E	B	J	O	A	H	B	A	C	S	I	N	A	N
A	O	I	A	H	M	E	H	H	H	A	L	R	O
R	R	M	M	E	A	T	A	E	T	M	Y	O	A
A	A	O	A	E	L	H	K	L	I	R	A	P	A
M	H	A	R	D	A	I	E	B	A	R	I	P	R
A	A	N	T	O	A	B	B	M	M	H	N	I	U
T	B	A	H	A	A	L	E	I	N	H	E	Z	T
H	S	M	A	N	N	A	R	L	H	R	R	E	H

SARAH
ELIZABETH
REBEKAH
BATHSHEBA
MARTHA
Jael
MARY
DEBORAH
ANNA
BILHAH
RUTH
VASHTI
TAMAR
HAGAR
LEAH
MIRIAM
RACHEL
ABIGAIL
ZIPPORAH
RAHAB
DORCUS
EVE
KEZIAH
NAOMI

Akron Pride Festival and Equity

March 2022

AUGUST 27, 2022

DOWNTOWN AKRON MAIN STREET



This year the Social Justice and Marketing committees have teamed up to celebrate PRIDE. Not only will we walk in the Equity March, we will also have a booth to show Kent UCC is Open and Affirming and open to all.

When: Sat. August 27, 2022 10AM-10PM

Equity March 10AM- 11AM This is fun short walk from the Spaghetti Warehouse to Lock 3 where the booths are located. All ages are welcome and encouraged.

Our Kent UCC booth will be open all day if you want to stop by.

If you would like to sign up to either march or volunteer at the booth, please sign up [here](#). We'll keep you updated.



Want to spend a summer evening enjoying great food, listening to some wonderful blues music, and enjoying time with friends and family? The Social Justice Ministry is hosting **Blues & BBQ** Saturday, August 20 from 5-8 (food served until 7). The Back Alley Relics will play on and off the entire time. We'll also have yard games, corn hole, and face painting activities. It will be held on the back parking lot or indoors in case of inclement weather.

All proceeds will go to the Nancy and Bruce Hansford NAACP Scholarship fund. This scholarship is given annually by our church, through NAACP, to deserving young men and women for future education after high school graduation.

The cost is \$15 per person and \$7.50 for children 5 and over. Kids under 5 are free. You'll get a pulled pork or chicken sandwich from Pit

Stop BBQ, side dishes, beverages, dessert, and lots of great music. The Social Justice Committee is taking reservations on Sundays at church, or you can call the church office at (330) 673-9534.

We need help with desserts, set up, serving, and clean up. To volunteer, please use our sign-up genius by clicking [here](#).

If you can't attend but wish to donate to the scholarship fund, you can donate online through Engage [here](#) and select the scholarship fund. Or, you can send a check payable to the church and note that it is for the Hansford NAACP Scholarship.

We look forward to seeing many of you and your friends there!

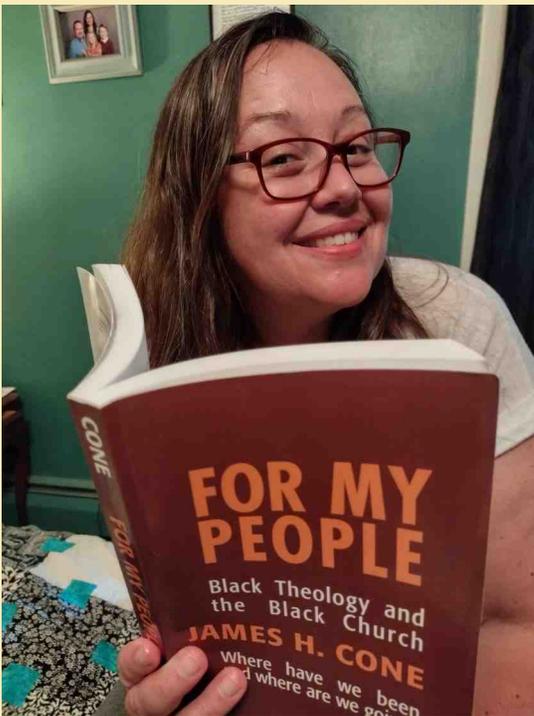
Kent UCC Goes to Seminary

Sophia Hayden Sends Greetings from Iliff School of Theology:

Hello Kent UCC family! Grace and peace to you. It has officially been a year since I last worshiped with you right before Abbey and I relocated to Colorado in search of excellent theological education and new experiences. The past year has been all of that and more. Thanks be to God. I have been enrolled full-time at Iliff School of Theology in Denver and I am proud to have accomplished all of my academic goals this first year. I served as a Pastoral Resident part-time as well at First Plymouth Congregational Church in Englewood, CO. I gained parish experience there by attending weekly staff meetings, facilitating the 6-12 grade youth group, writing some children's sermons and preaching on a few occasions – my favorite time being the FP Interfaith Service with Temple Sinai Denver. I plan to remain on staff at FP in the coming academic year. As a sort of liaison for FP I also began facilitating a space similar to Pastor Amy's "Space for Grace" at a sober living facility in Aurora, CO, called Ready to Work. My ministry partner Amanda and I call it Breathing Room: A Space for Grace and Contemplation. I thank Pastor Amy and those involved at Kent UCC's Space for Grace for introducing me to this way of communing with God and others. I thank you for your prayers and various support and I look forward to worshipping with you again soon!



Jen Case Accepted to Union Theological Seminary



I am so grateful to Pastor Amy and the whole congregation of Kent UCC for encouraging me on my journey to Union Theological Seminary! I was accepted in July and will be starting my first class on August 26th! As many of you know, when my family and I first started attending eight years ago, I was at a very serious crossroads in my faith where I was sure about what I did not believe anymore, but not so sure about what I did believe. Kent UCC has been so instrumental in giving me a whole new framework in which to hold my faith, particularly in learning what Jesus has to say about how we follow Him by seeking justice in God's kin-dom here on Earth.

I am so eager, and hungry actually, to dig deeper into Black liberation theology, queer theology, eco-theology, and feminist theology. I am currently having a hard time choosing my first two classes to take because there are too many good ones! Thank you for being on this adventure with me. Please pray with me as I become a student once again at the age of 45!

*I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. ~ Isaiah 43:19*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

August

1: Teddie Joeright, Kathryn Mahon 3: Linnea Stafford 5: Glenn Hanniford
6: Julie Wallace 7: Elizabeth Davey 8: Julie Dietz, Alan Frank 9: Ella Hassler
11: Courtney Cates 12: Bill Peck 13: Ben Dunlap, Jim Dunlap 14: Scott Mackall
16: Jason Reeves 17: Bill Blair 18: Jill Hutchison, Jeff Willis 19: Grace Brinker,
Nick Dunlap, David Hassler, Leslie Madden 22: Lauren Willis 24: Peder Otterson
27: Sally Saltzman 28: Sarah Roeger, David Smith 29: Rick Buckley, Brenda Schneider 30: Tieceasha Foreman
31: Curt Vaught



September

1: Mary Homer 7: Lorelea Allen, Dianne Kuntzman 8: Jaime Baughman 9: Livi Wise 11: Steve Boyles, Jill Khol,
Felicia Lumpkin, Michael Rusanowsky 13: George Dietz, Kelley Gifford, Peg Hall, Jane Kemp, Emily Roeger
16: Debbie Schinker 17: Harriet Fisher 20: Susan Braden, Mandi Rhinehart Larson 21: Karen Carmany
22: Doris Aeschliman, Georgeanne Hoover 24: John Schinker 25: Danyelle Davis, Katy Reynolds 26: Corey Fowler,
Kay Hansford 27: Andria Blackwood, Barb Marken 29: Karen Clarke, Heather Wise 30: Ken Moss, Amanda Nagy

October

1: John Rusanowsky 2: Muriel Breyley 4: Kathy Myers, Kelli Myers, Amy Reeves 6: Stephen Boyles, Jerry Homer,
John Kish 7: Rachel Barlett 8: Scott Bennington, Jill Lowery 11: Sarah Hoover, Adam Livengood 12: Anne Smerdon Myers
13: Kelle Arthur 14: Eric Vaught 15: Sandy Dettis, Janet Varner 18: Janet Rusanowsky 20: Crystal Shanley 21: Al Barber,
Abigail Roelle, Jim Wallace 23: John Hetrick 27: Patrick Mason 29: Taylor McWilliams-Woods

Don't see your name listed? We may not have your birthdate in our database.

Contact Leah in the church office at: LDavis@kentucc.org and let her know any missing information we may not have.

Founders' Day 2022



On Sunday, June 12, 2022, Kent UCC celebrated Founders' Day. 203 years!! Can you believe it? To the left we captured this shot of Founders' Bruce Hansford and Doris Aeschliman with our beautiful cake from that day.

To the right, our Pastor Amy having a piece of cake with Bruce Hansford.

If you missed Founders' Day this year, we hope to see you at the 2023 celebration when we will be 204 years old!



Meet Our Staff...



The Rev. Amy Gopp
Senior Pastor
pastoramy@kentucc.org



Corey Fowler
Director of Music
cfowler1@kent.edu



Leah Davis
Office Administrator
LDavis@kentucc.org



Don Deibler
Custodian
office@kentucc.org

Council:

Moderator — Jeff Roeger
Vice Moderator — Sue Otterson
Treasurer — Sally Saltzman
Clerk — Brenda Schneider
Diaconate — Jackie Peck
Education — Emily Roeger
Fellowship — Julie Wallace
Finance — Bill Hoover
Outreach — Donna Hess
Personnel — Barb Werstler
Property — John Hetrick
Stewardship — Crystal Shanley
Worship & the Arts — Glenn Hanniford
Youth Representative — Grace Polcha
Member At Large — Karen Carmany

**Have a question for council? Contact:
Jeff Roeger at: jfroeger@att.net**

Our Mission:

Enlivened by the grace of Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, Kent United Church of Christ does justice, embraces faithful love, and walks humbly with our God to serve and transform lives, our community and the world. (Micah 6:8)



OPEN AND AFFIRMING
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



KENT 
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

KUCC is an Open and Affirming (ONA) and Accessible to All (A2A) church, we welcome all of God's children to worship, serve, grow, and experience the joy of the Gospel with us.

Kent United Church of Christ
1400 E. Main Street, Kent, OH 44240
330.673.9534
kentucc.org

KENT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

SUNDAY SERVICE

10:00AM

kentucc.org * 330.673.9534



Office Hours:
M-F 9am-4pm

Summer Hours:
9am-2pm

ONLINE WORSHIP/SOCIAL MEDIA



<https://bit.ly/3jVsNX7>



<https://www.facebook.com/KentUnitedChurchOfChrist>

GIVING

We appreciate your gifts to our church to help continue our mission. Did you know that you can also give online? Go to our website and click on the "donate" tab on our homepage. Or use this link: <https://kentucc.org/donate>

You can also bring your offering to church on Sunday morning, or send us a check to: 1400 E. Main Street, Kent, OH 44240

NEED TO CATCH UP?



Watch this week and the previous weeks worship and children's church on our website at: <https://kentucc.org/worship-online>

ONLINE CHURCH DIRECTORY

<https://engage.suran.com/kent-ucc/s/login>

CHANCEL FLOWERS

Do you have an anniversary, birthday, or important date coming up that you would like to commemorate? Donate chancel flowers for our Sunday morning worship service. Contact Nancy Bubenzer at: nbubenzer@gmail.com for more information.

GET IN TOUCH

Do we have your updated information including your email address? We send out weekly updates to let our church family know of current events and resources. Please contact the church office at: office@kentucc.org or call: 330.673.9534 to update your information.

SUGGESTIONS?

Do you have suggestions for the next Messenger, an article you would like to write, or an idea for a column? We'd love to hear from you!

Contact Terri at:
tsilveruccmessenger@gmail.com

GET INVOLVED

Are you interested in joining the church? Would you like to get involved in a ministry or group but don't know who to contact? Would you like to help with events? Would you like to volunteer in the church office?

If you would like more information, please contact the church office at:
office@kentucc.org

IF YOU ARE VISITING OUR CHURCH:



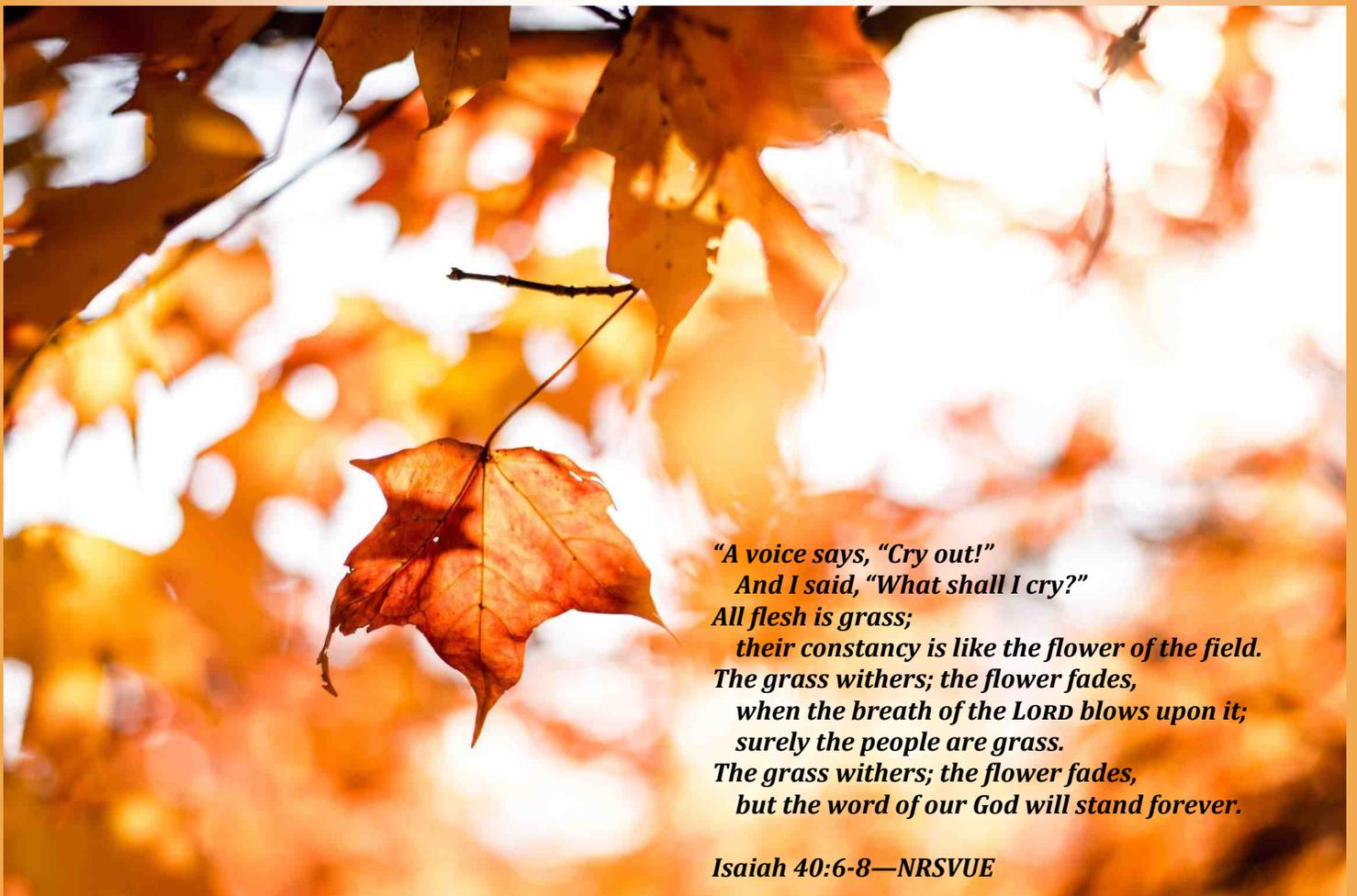
KENT

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

1400 E. Main Street, Kent, OH 44240
Phone: (330) 673-9534
kentucc.org

No matter who you are , or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!



*"A voice says, "Cry out!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All flesh is grass;
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers; the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers; the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.*

Isaiah 40:6-8—NRSVUE