

THE CARILLON



SCRIPTURE LESSONS

March 2 "The Transfiguration of Transformation"
Luke 9: 28-36

March 9 "A Lenten Detox Program"
Luke 4: 1-13

March 16 "Cleansing, Lamenting, Healing"
Luke 13: 31-35

March 23 "God of Humility"
Luke 13: 1-9

March 30 "God of Favoritism"
Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32

MARCH 2024

- 2 Communion
- 9 Sunday School
- 10 7:00pm Trustees meeting
- 12 1:00 pm Bible Study
7:30 pm Deacons meeting
- 18 5:00 pm Claridon Community Helps dinner
- 23 Sunday School
- 26 7:30 pm Cabinet meeting

Each Sunday: Worship 10:00 am
Each Wednesday: Choir Practice 5:30 pm
Bell Choir Practice 6:30 pm
Each Thursday: Bible Study 6:30 pm

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CLARIDON

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SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2025





PRAYER LIST

August Speziale
Shawn
Norm Zepp
Sharon Hunter
Beth Christian Sharp
Gregg Kinson
Dan Macraild
Kevin Playman
Denny Bihary
Thomas Woods
Carrie Foster
Bonnie Clemson
Gary Branstein
Cecil Stokesberry
Marcia Wellman
Jeffery Przybysz

Doris Wilson
Bree Ellis Banks
Clay Milliken
Leo
Dale Baptie
Richard Germaine
Rick Juhasz
Connie & Wayne Streble
Kelly Wagner
Darrel Kangas
Ed Ward
Rheta Crowley
Wayne Dawson
Joe Berninger
Kim Hinkle



“A Season of Warming Up”

Ecc3:11 “Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God’s work from beginning to end.”

As we prepare to change seasons from the dead of winter into the blooming warmth of spring, we also have the distinct opportunity of embracing the changing season of life within the church. We are in a period of transition from an established pastorate into a new pastorate season. For many this time is one of anticipation and eagerness. For others, this changing season might be a little unsure and apprehensive. No matter the knee jerk reaction one may have, one thing is for sure, we all are in a season of warming up for the new that is to come. I believe this part of life is best when lived when we put our trust in God for the warming season to come.

In the age of global warming this image can bring about all sorts of tragic images to our minds. Yes, change can do this to our sense of stability and predictability inside of the human mind when we leave our faith at the door and forsake practicing trust in our Creator who has given us the opportunity to meet each day with the promise of transitioning life into our More. Yet, in order to receive The More in life we must become teachable and ready to receive The More than what we have. This process often takes practice and mindfulness. This means we must be learners of God’s life lessons so we can become practitioners of God’s healing agents among us. I have found this process takes a warming up season for most of us. Like global warming, we strain under the changes given to us. Yet, with time, patience and participation with one another in the way of Godly instruction, we find that our warming season finds the path for succession. For even as old as our wisdom literature states, *“there is nothing new under the sun.”* (v1)

As the old hymn goes, “Our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness.” We are in a time of a warming season with one another church. This is our time to seek out a hopeful future with one another. The path to acceptance is trust in the Lord for the building of our faith with connection in one another knowing that we are promised The More in Christ. I believe our path together is found in the Lord who knows our destiny. May we accept the warmth of Christ for the new season which awaits our arrival. May we trust in God’s path for our wellbeing. May we celebrate our walk of acceptance in the Lord for the rich blessings that are waiting for us as our faith matures and grows through our obedience to our Creator. As a church, we are called to live this walk together now and in our season ahead. In God we can live together in love. May our hearts and minds warm into this growing season of new renewal in the Lord.

Blessings in this Lenten Season of reflection and renewal,

Pastor Julie ☺☺

AWARDS

The Awards Committee announces the availability of awards for the 2024-2025 academic year. The purpose of these awards are to encourage people to further their education through a traditional college, trade school, or the equivalent.

Graduating high school seniors, college students, or high school graduates are encouraged to apply. Candidates should be prepared to write about: work (paid or unpaid); church, school, and community involvement.

Application forms are available through the guidance offices at: Berkshire, Cardinal, Chardon Schools; and Agape Christian Academy. They are also available here at church on the table in the “gathering space” and by request at:

Awards.ccc@gmail.com.

Applications must be submitted by email at: **Awards.ccc@gmail.com** no later than **March 30, 2025**. Preference will be given to applicants affiliated with the First Congregational Church of Claridon.

Awardees must be present at the Awards Presentation on **May 4th, 2025**. Thank you for helping to spread the word about this opportunity and of course for any prayers offered for the applicants.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday School will be held March 9 and 23.

We will hold our annual Easter egg hunt and celebration on April 12th starting at 11am. We will have the egg hunt, our Easter story, crafts and lunch. We will be accepting candy donations to fill the eggs. We are hoping for sunshine and clear skies, but we will hold the egg hunt outside in almost any weather so please dress accordingly 😊

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Sign up to receive daily devotions through the United Church of Christ link below:

<https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/>

DEACONS

Sara Hamrick is deacon of the month in March.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE

The mission we will be supporting in March is Next Step which helps young adults, some of whom have aged out of foster care, by supplying housing and basic support as they continue their education or enter the work force. We can help by supplying the following items:

- \$20 gift cards for gas or groceries

- Paper products

- Laundry detergent

- Toiletries for men and women

Please leave donated items on the bench in the church library. Give gift cards to a member of the Missions Committee (Pam Plott, Linda McBean, Jill Kellogg and Carane Ladd). Thank you for supporting this important cause!

Ladies, if you are spring cleaning, decluttering or downsizing, and you find hats (vintage or otherwise) that you no longer want, I am collecting them for a fund raiser for Century Village.

Thanks,

Carane Ladd

BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR JULIE

Bible Study is Choice #3 - Richard Rohr "The Tears of Things." Anyone who would like to join in the group is welcome! Just preorder online at Amazon. Prime Members get free shipping. We will plan to have the sessions go for 8-12 weeks. Yet, depending upon discussion and the material content, we might make adjustments. Our start date is scheduled for March 12th at 1pm.

In his first major work since *The Universal Christ*, one of our most prominent spiritual voices offers a wholehearted and hope-filled model for the world today, grounded in the timeless wisdom of the Hebrew prophets.

“Richard Rohr is one of the great Christian spiritual masters of our time. Of any time.”—James Martin, SJ, author of *Come Forth*

How do we live compassionately in a time of violence and despair? What can we do with our private disappointments and the anger we feel in such an unjust world? In his most personal book yet, Richard Rohr turns to the writings of the Jewish prophets, revealing how some of the lesser-read books of the Bible offer us a crucial path forward today.

The prophets' writings reflect the full spectrum of human maturity. In almost every case, their initial rage and their accusatory words evolve into a profound pathos and lamentation about our shared human condition and the world's suffering. Through

astute critiques of culture and institutions, and their journey from anger to sadness, and ultimately compassion, the prophets exemplify what Rohr calls “sacred criticism”—a distinct approach to confronting evil and injustice that acknowledges the wholeness of history, the interconnectedness of every living being, and the reality of a divine and universal love. In this, they set the stage for Jesus, who follows this identical pattern.

Drawing on a century of biblical scholarship and written in the warm, pastoral voice that has endeared Rohr to millions, *The Tears of Things* breathes new life into ancient wisdom. It paves a path of enlightenment for anyone seeking a compassionate way of living in a hurting world.

PRESIDENT

Reminder of the upcoming Cabinet Meeting, Wednesday, March 26, 2025 at 7:30 pm. Committee chairs and any church members are welcomed.

TRUSTEES

We had an after church cleanup of outdated, not used, have too many, electric and sound equipment pieces, cleanup conducted by Nathaniel and Aubrey, and it has definitely given us more room and reduced clutter. Thank you guys, job well done.

Good news! The church has won another award for our reconstruction of the sanctuary. Thanks to Marous Brothers, historian, Sharon Trsek for submitting the project. We have won the award of excellence for Stewardship of an Ecclesiastical Building from the Cleveland Restoration society and AIA Cleveland. There will be a reception and recognition event on March 21, and several of us will attend.

I am sure you have noticed a large hunk of the parking lot has been distressed by winter. The township will be resurfacing their portion and it is always better to have ours done when they do their portion, and hopefully a better rate. They are starting to get quotes now and will be done this year. That of course will be a big chunk out of our budget..... always something....

Reminder, new month, sign up to do coffee hour if you have a birthday or anniversary in March

