

# The Chatter 2.0

The Newsletter of Zion United Church of Christ, Fireside



Est. 1830

A congregation in Bellevue, Ohio, committed to being the church

July 2025

The Chatter

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## Pastoral Ponderings

Spring has finally turned to summer. Fields are planted, and soon, we will no longer be able to peek over the corner of the intersections as the corn stalks grow higher and higher. Tomato plants are working their way to producing blooms as we impatiently wait for that first ripe tomato. Wildflowers line the roads and wild berries start to pop up.

Biologist Robin Wall Kimmerer writes in her book *Braiding Sweetgrass* about how she was raised by strawberries. She writes how, as a native person, strawberry in her native language translates to heart berry and how it was strawberries that shaped her view of a world full of gifts. Kimmerer retells how growing up, she would wander around the fields and find a patch of wild strawberries and explains the feeling of generosity and kindness that comes with an unexpected gift. Kimmerer writes, "A gift comes to you

## Mission Statement

**To be the church, sewing seeds of love, faith and respect through serving one another and serving our community.**



through no action of your own, free, having moved toward you without your beckoning. It is not a reward; you cannot earn it,

or call it to you, or even deserve it. And yet it appears. Your only role is to be open-eyed and present. Gifts exist in a realm of humility and mystery – as with random acts of kindness, we do not know their source."

As the heat of the summer begins, let us look for the gifts in our lives, the unexpected. Those things that we do not deserve but nevertheless receive. With gratitude, we give thanks for those gifts, big and small, whether it be an expected berry patch or something larger. Let us give praise and thanksgiving to the One who created all and the giver of all gifts, all summer long.

## Pastor Noah's Contact Information

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**Email: [pastor.nmccarn@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.nmccarn@gmail.com)**

**Office hours: Tuesday and Wednesday 9:00 to noon. Other times by appointment.**

## Consistory Notes

Consistory met on June 8<sup>th</sup> in the Leisher Lounge.

- New members will be welcomed into the church the end of July.
- Pastor Noah will be meeting with the discernment committee at the end of June. He will also be taking classes October – March.
- Kitchen Upgrade – additional quote is needed for: removal of backsplash, repair of wall and removal of and reinstallation of cupboards.
- Pastor Diane Carter gave the church a brick from Temple Hills that had our name on it from a donation we had made years ago.
- Summer Break – Consistory will take the months of July and August off from meeting. If business arises, it will be handled via text chat or special meeting.

Next Consistory meeting will be held September 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am.



April ~ Love – Choosing to forgive others, seeking the best for others, demonstrating love even when it's difficult.

May ~ Joy – Maintaining a deep, abiding happiness in Christ even when facing difficult circumstances.

June ~ Peace – Choosing to trust God's plan and remaining calm during difficult situations.



## Faith Formation Mission in Action

Our Faith Formation group is focusing on the 9 Fruits of the Spirit for the remainder of the year.

The fourth fruit, for July, is Patient. Patience, as a fruit of the Holy Spirit, is more than just waiting; it's a state of enduring hardship or provocation with a calm and unruffled temper. It's a virtue that reflects trust in God's timing and a commitment to others, even when facing challenges or delays. This fruit enables believers to persevere through trials and difficulties, mirroring God's own patience.

The Spirit of independence, liberty, and self-determination embodied in the Declaration of Independence continues to resonate with Americans to this day. It serves as a reminder of the hard-fought struggles and sacrifices made by the founding fathers and countless others in their pursuit of freedom.

Independence Day, celebrated on July 4<sup>th</sup> in the United States, commemorates the Declaration of Independence from Great Britain in 1776. While the vote for independence occurred on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Declaration was formally adopted on July 4<sup>th</sup>, solidifying the date as the nation's birthday. The day is marked by festivities like fireworks, parades, and family gatherings, reflecting the historical significance of the event.





On Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup> we were blessed to have Ted Clark deliver an inspirational message as our Guest Preacher – Worship Leader while Pastor Noah was out of town.



Henry and Brynn helping their dad, Adam, and Brad with extinguishing the candles at the end of Worship.



The cemetery is not run by the church, but by the Fireside Cemetery Association. Contact Roger Walters, 6556 N. SR 18, Clyde, OH 43410

### **Fireside Walkers**

The Fireside Walkers are off and walking. They meet every Thursday at 7:00 pm. If you are interested in participating, please contact Pastor Noah for more information and meeting location.



### **4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebrations**

July 3<sup>rd</sup> Clyde Fireworks  
 July 4<sup>th</sup> 3 PM Flat Rock Parade. Fireworks in Bellevue, Fremont, Port Clinton, Sandusky and Tiffin.  
 July 5<sup>th</sup> Green Springs Fireworks

## Church Picnic

Faith Formation organized a picnic after Worship on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Due to the extremely hot temperature and humidity, we held the picnic in the basement fellowship hall where it was much cooler.

Bob cooked hot dogs on the smoker for all to enjoy along with salads, dips, chips and desserts. Our members sure can cook



Always plenty of food and desserts!!



Fellowship and laughter at every table.



Jack & Marsha made it home from Florida in time to join us.



"All aboard!" for Vacation Bible School "The Gospel Train" adventure, July 14-17 from 6-8:30 pm at St. John's Lutheran Church, Bellevue.

St. Paul's is partnering with St. John's Lutheran church for VBS has invited Fireside UCC to join them. Registration information is on the bulletin board.

Volunteers are needed to help serve and share the good news with the children of our community. If you would like to help, please contact Pastor Noah.





## Upcoming Events

- July 4<sup>th</sup> Independence Day
- July 6<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am Worship with Communion  
Dedication of Sutton Turner
- July 13<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am Worship
- July 20<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am Worship
- July 24<sup>th</sup> 11:45 AM – Gleaners Luncheon.  
Location details will be announced closer to the date.
- July 27<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am Worship
- July Faith Formation – Meeting Date TBD



### July Birthdays

- July 4<sup>th</sup> Charlie Ziegler
- July 5<sup>th</sup> Henry Clark
- July 8<sup>th</sup> Heath Hamer
- July 9<sup>th</sup> Ginny Fox
- July 12<sup>th</sup> Anna Lieske
- July 13<sup>th</sup> Braxton Hoover
- July 16<sup>th</sup> Chris Lieske
- July 17<sup>th</sup> Pastor Noah
- July 18<sup>th</sup> Brad Rine
- July 22<sup>nd</sup> Robin Patten  
Michael Sylvester
- July 31<sup>st</sup> Greg Walters

## Keeping In Our Prayers



Susan Bishop, Bill Carroll, Shirley Dick, Mike Hamer, Jay Jackson, Dawn Nailor, Etta Meisner, Jack Rine, Sandy Ritenour, John Shumway, Eric Smith and Tim Wilson.

James Good and Jordan Evans who are serving in our military.



Fireside's Book Club will resume in the next few weeks. Watch the bulletin and weekly email for more information.

## Faith Formation and Mission of Fireside

Fish & Loaves Food Pantry  
Donations needed: Canned Soups

Pass It On Clothing  
Donations needed: Men's Undershirts

Cassie's Comfort  
Donations of personal hygiene supplies (alcohol free) are needed for men and women who are in recovery.

All donations may be dropped off at the church on Tuesday and Wednesday between 9:00 am – Noon. Monetary donations may be made to the church or directly to the organization.