

Atlanta Congregational United Church of Christ

June, July 2022 Newsletter

The Pastor's Page

Dear Members and Friends,

As I was walking around the church yard the other day, I couldn't help but notice how beautiful our corner at the intersection of Jerome Street was looking. We have become a bright spot in this little section of Atlanta. However, I wondered if we indeed are that "shining city on the hill" described in John Winthrop's sermon to the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1630 and made famous by President Ronald Reagan. The Metaphor is about being a beacon of hope, a blessing, to those around you, your community, your country, and the world. God only knows such light and hope is needed in these times. But what does be a blessing mean?

I was meditating this morning with a little book by the Irish poet John O'Donohue, called "To Bless the Space Between Us". A few things struck me that I think are worth sharing today. ..." There is a kindness that dwells deep down in things; it presides everywhere, often in the places we least expect. The world can be harsh and negative, but if we remain generous and patient, kindness inevitably reveals itself. Something deep in the human soul seems to depend on human kindness."

O'Donohue goes on to say that despite all the darkness in this world our hope is based on our kindness and light and that... "This is the heart of blessing. To believe in blessing is to believe that our being here, our very presence in the world, is itself the first gift, the primal blessing....A blessing is a constant flow of emergence. In other words, a revelation of God's love.

Jesus said, "Be the salt and the light." When the world is mean, dark, and negative we are to be the seasoning that helps others taste Godliness and be the light that shines his goodness and reveals the colors of his love, kindness, and compassion.

"The beauty of blessing is that it recognizes no barriers...that separate us. This can often be the key to forgiveness. Forgiveness is the only way forward to free us and a society from entrenched fear, anger, hurt and resentment.

Remember when I offer you the peace of Christ during the service, I'm giving you a direct blessing from Christ. And when you offer the same peace to those near you; you are offering the same blessing directly from Christ. It's not a time to make lunch plans or think about mowing the grass or watching the game. It's a sacred time directed by the spirit of Christ within us.

Eastertide ends this Sunday with the beginning of the season of Pentecost. I've been talking these past few months about living a resurrected life and what that looks like. Being a blessing to others in our everyday circumstances of life is very much a hallmark of the resurrected life.

Galatians 5:22-23 describes this perfectly... "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control..."

I think our corner at the intersection of Jerome Street is a blessing of light and hope to each other and to the Atlanta community.

May the peace of Christ be with you

Pastor Rose

Baby Basket News

At the Baby Basket, we are loaded with clothes, but we are only doing food by gift certificates. We really need another sorting day. I am putting a notice in the newspaper and on Facebook to inform the people of what we are doing. I do have some non food items to help those in need, such as laundry detergent, toilet paper, paper towels and I will purchase shampoo and conditioner, as well as sanitary items.

Donna, Acting Director

Deacons

The Deacons will be having an after church brunch on the last Sunday of each month. Our Menu for June will be Sloppy Joes, Chips, cole slaw and brownies. Please take a few minutes before or after worship to visit the memorial garden and the beautiful flowers that have been planted by Bob Skaggs. It is so beautiful, and he said just wait, I said I will be anxious to see all the beauty.

We also discussed Gospel Sunday and where we will have it. We will make a decision at our next meeting.

Pastor Rosie informed us that she has been accepted to the Methodist Theological School in Ohio to get her Doctorate degree. We are all so proud of her and wish her well in her studies.

Jan Davis; Diaconate Secretary

Women's Fellowship

We will have our next Fellowship meeting on June 7th. We will have social time at 10am, our business meeting at 11, and lunch at noon. Bring a sack lunch. Barb Esper, President

Prayer Needs

People need us to keep them in our prayers, because of having varying problems, and we all know what a difference prayers make. There are many prayer needs that we don't even know about, so as we pray, may we ask God to help all those that only He is aware of. Thank You

Joan Beauregard-----Rev. Keith Titus-----Bud Plane

Barb Pyle-----Warren Keith-----Scotty Moore

We are also asked to keep a different United Northern Association Church in our prayers each month. For the month of June, we are asked to keep; Bay City 1st Congregational United Church of Christ in our prayers, and for July, we are asked to keep Benzonia 1st Congregational United Church of Christ in our prayers.

Deacon's Meeting: Sunday June 19, following Morning Service

Trustee's Meeting: To Be Announced

Ushers for June & July:

We have Barb and Bill Esper for the first two weeks in June, but we need people for the last two weeks of June and for all of July.

June Birthdays

02 Sue Weaver Cooper

05 Darcie Brown

06 Pam McMurphy

11 Warren Keith

June Anniversaries

15 Roger & Samie Teets

19 Bud & Gerry Klein

12 Denny Davis

14 Gloria Mabie

16 Pat Bolser

22 Gary McMurphy

24 Gerry Klein

July Birthdays

05 Patty Bolser

06 Jim Coran

11 Rev Dr, Keith Provost

15 Barb Esper

24 Lynda Utt

June Liturgists

05 Denny Davis

12 Bob Skaggs

19 Bonnie Harrison

26 Ben Bolser

July Liturgists

03 Donna Anderson

10 Denny Davis

17 Bob Skaggs

24 Ben Bolser

31 John Coon

July Anniversaries

08 Rev. Keith & Mary Lou Provost

June Greeters

05 Paul Bliss

12 Cena McMurphy

19 Bonnie Harrison

26 Lynda Utt

July Greeters

03 Lynda Utt

10 Cena McMurphy

17 Gary McMurphy

24 Gloria Mabie

31 John Coon

Have a Wonderful June and July