When the days begin to run into each other until they seemingly become one long stretch of grey, we need to remember that after the storm passes is when we see the rainbows! Sometimes when it rains, it pours but as every child knows, April showers bring ...

Facebook link to Worship Videos:
https://www.facebook.com/207535775991402/videos

Find us on YouTube!
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6ilxQOMqB-OEJ2SorcbQHA
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If your birthday or anniversary is missing, please let the office know!
On April 28, 2019, we gathered in the sanctuary to share in my installation. Our local congregation was present. The wider church, Living Water Association, Heartland Conference and the denomination, was present. My family was present. Promises and covenants were shared. Friends were made. Music was appreciated. My children talked about what it meant to grow up in a pastor’s home and how at times they were “voluntold” to do things. My colleague, classmate, and friend, the Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, brought the word, where he talked about what it means “to do a new thing” from Isaiah 43. My colleague, classmate and friend, the Rev. Dwayne Mosier, shared the charge to me, to look for God’s signs, and most importantly, “to trust God and to love the people that God has called me to lead.” My colleague and friend, the Rev. Terry Williams, gave the charge to the congregation that every time we come into the sanctuary and look at the cross, to remember that we are called to justice, kindness and compassion. My dad, the Rev. Dr. Ralph C. Quellhorst and my spouse, the Rev. Jeff Davis, shared the prayer of installation and the laying on of hands, where the heaviness of the Spirit and love of God came through. The installation promises were asked by the Rev. Nayiri Karjian, Living Water Association Minister. The Congregation that was gathered took those promises with me. What a blessed day it was.

Now a year later, none of us could have imagined how different ministry and life would be. If we really look at it, though … Ministry is happening. The covenant promises are being kept. Justice, kindness, and compassion are happening. I am loving and trusting God to help lead me to be the church, as we are called to be at this time and place. I feel the weight and the love of the Holy Spirit and the church, whether we are worshiping in the same space or whether we are worshiping in new and creative ways. God is working through us! We are “bound together” as Ken Medema writes in his song, and Jeff sang, “We are bound together and finely woven with love.”

Blessings and love abound,
Pastor Mindy
DRIVE-THRU FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Tuesday, May 5  1:00 - 3:00pm
Vermilion Elementary School
1285 Douglas Street, Vermilion

Second Harvest will be distributing FREE boxes of assorted shelf-stable food and more.

- Please remain in your vehicle
- Food will only be placed in the trunk of your vehicle
- Food cannot be placed in the front or back seat area
- Please ensure trunk space is clean and clear of other items
- If the trunk is not clean, you will be asked to pull off and can only return to the line once the trunk is empty

Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio
5510 Baumhart Rd. | Lorain, OH 44053 | (440) 960-2265
www.secondharvestfoodbank.org
From the Moderator

What a strange time we are living through. Social distancing, wearing masks, and fear of so many things are a daily worry. Then I am thinking back many years ago when our current “time out” was called “grounding”. If you broke the family rules you were probably “grounded”. Kind of just like now except it’s called “stay in place” for all of May. So we are in the process of being grounded for at least 3 months total. Who would have thought this could ever happen to us and the world. I am sure we all have had our lives turned upside down. Family events have been cancelled, larger events have been cancelled, no meetings of large groups such as live concerts, professional and college sports cancelled and public and private schools mandated to be taught online from home. Everyone’s life has been modified and upended to help keep us from becoming infected by the COVID-19 virus.

When this all started and rules were being set to help us be safe it was hard to believe. Now the data from around the world with the infections and deaths make us feel insignificant, and helpless. How do we find peace and comfort?

Thank goodness for spring and nicer weather. Going for walks and being outside has been very comforting to many. People are very creative and are sharing recipes for new and exciting desserts mostly. Families are finding games at home, and making up new ones and then showing them on Facebook. Our families have become even more important to us even if we can’t hug the kids or grand kids. We still need to know what they are up to.

It’s the same with our church family. We need to keep in touch with each other and to help each other when people need assistance. Pastor Mindy and Jeff and Cory and other members have been helping by having a Sunday worship service for us weekly. We get to sing and pray and take communion, and receive an inspirational message right in our own homes via Facebook or YouTube. Emailing and phoning each other has become more important than usual. The church committees are still communicating and supporting the congregation as best they can. Now discussions have started on the best and safest way to reopen the church for worship and all of the other activities that take place there.

Our Pastor and each of our church family are committed to see this through by helping each other. And through all of this, we are truly being comforted in other ways. The orioles, the humming birds, gold finches and so many more birds are back and singing their hearts out. The spring wild flowers, beautiful shrubs, and flowing trees are doing their best to brighten up our days. Even the dandelions are adding color. Many of the parks and gardens are open for us to visit and enjoy. While we are all still “grounded” for a few more weeks let’s try to enjoy nature and all of its beauty and pray for the nurses and first responders and all people that are taking care of the rest of us through these stressful times.

See you in church Sunday, online, singing and praying together and for each other.

Jim Estle
Sunset Shores Outreach Policy:

Many of you may be wondering what is happening with the Sunset Shores Fund. Several of us have been working on a Policy to guide this fund. The fund will be called the **Sunset Shores Outreach Fund**. This fund has been created to fulfil what the Sunset Shores Committee promised when the Church sold the property. The Sunset Shores Outreach Policy is in its final stages. Council Members are reviewing the final draft and then will vote on it. If council passes the policy, then the Moderator will appoint a committee. The Policy dictates the make-up of this committee. Five members will serve—current finance chair, past moderator and three others appointed by the moderator. The current moderator and the pastor will serve as ad hoc members. Members will serve 3 years except for original appointees who have staggered terms so that we do not ever have all new members on the committee.

Any adult person who has participated in our church for at least one year or more can sponsor a grant. The Policy creates two types of grants: smaller grants of $2000 or less and larger grants. The Policy stipulates the procedure for determining the amount of money to be awarded each year. Half of this amount will go to each category. The Sunset Shores Committee will create an application form, review applications, determine grants to be awarded and provide follow-up for completion of projects. Our Church’s OCWM (Our Church’s Wider Mission) money will also be paid from the available money each year. Currently the Church is contributing $6000 a year.

The Policy will be reviewed periodically by the Committee to assure all that the Fund is serving its intended purpose. After Council passes it, a copy will be available in the office for your review.

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**In Loving Memory**

Marilyn VanDenBossche

May we hold fast to the promise of the resurrection for Marilyn and prayers of hope for her family.
Pastor Mindy would love to see what makes us happy! Photos or videos showing how we are engaging in activities that make US smile will make HER smile! It can be anything ... interacting with family & friends via zoom, creating art projects or crafts, having virtual get-togethers, writing cards or notes to send, playing with our furry family members, taking nature walks (wearing our masks of course!), anything at all! Email them to her - revmq1@gmail.com

COMING SOON!!!!

The Finance Committee is excited to share with you good news! By mid May, on-line giving will be available on our website. You will be able to go to vermilioncongregational.org, click on the “donate” button and make your pledge or donation to the church. Options will include debit or credit card, ACH through your bank (you tell your bank how much and when you wish to pay and the bank will send the money) and mobile giving. We are using software developed by Tithe.ly. This company was highly recommended by local churches as well as churches in other Ohio cities. There is no cost to the church for using on-line giving. Tithe.ly also offers tracking reports, church management programs and membership programs. Watch for more information coming soon!

Shirley Lehky sends a big THANK YOU to everyone for their prayers, food, cards & calls. She wants you to know she is doing fine, keeping up with her therapy & back to keeping tabs on all of us!
No matter who you are
Or where we are on life’s journey
You are always welcome here.
As we journey together we discover...
Love is the key!
Love of neighbor, children, and creation.

United Church of Christ Congregational

990 State Street
Vermilion, OH 44089