

THE COLUMNS

May 2024



Join Us...from Anywhere
10:15 am Sunday mornings
www.RichfieldUCC.org

Click on the button that says:

Join Us For Worship

That will take you to a page that says:

Live Streaming Worship

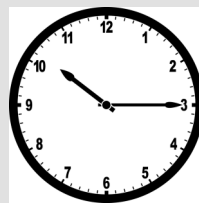
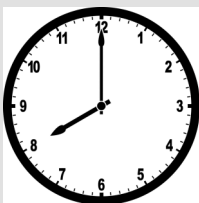
Click on **Live Streaming Worship**
about 5 minutes before the service is to begin.

The Weekly Bulletin is available to
download by clicking on the link
below the live stream button.

You can also view **Recent Services**
Support RUCC from home with **Online Giving**

Join us
for early morning worship
First Sunday of the Month
May 5

Two worship services
available
on one Sunday:
8:00 am and 10:15 am



Hunger Walk Sunday, May 5

RUCC will again participate in the Akron Area Interfaith Council's Walk For Hunger. The walk begins at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 3300 Morewood Rd. Fairlawn 44333.



Check-in is from 2:00-3:00 pm and the Walk begins at 3:00 pm. RUCC participating walkers can meet Charlotte Hays at 2:45 pm, next to the registration table for a group picture.

We have over 30 RUCC participants signed up.

Participants in the walk are asked to wear your blue RUCC t-shirts to church on May 5.

Saturday, May 18

Youth Group Plant Sale

8:00-noon RUCC parking lot

Flowers Herbs Vegetable Plants

Hanging Baskets



RUCC Clean-Up Day

Saturday, May 18

9:00-1:00

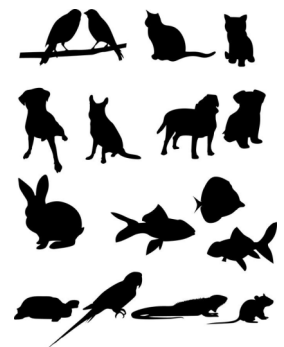
Help with a variety of
inside and outside chores.

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, May 19

RUCC Pavilion

2:00-3:00 pm





From the Pastor



Psalm 24:1 "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world and all who live in it."

Genesis 2:15: "The Lord God took the human and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."

Spring is in the air on Earth Day 2024 as I take up my pen to write not far from the Cuyahoga River. In June of 1969 the river was on fire, and it was one of several environmental disasters that year. The disasters prodded Republican President Richard Nixon to write to Congress asking it to do something about environmental quality in the United States, and later caused Nixon to establish the EPA, the Environmental Protection Agency. Another of the disasters was the Santa Barbara oil spill from earlier in the year that made many of California's beaches unusable. In response to it, Democratic Senator Gaylord Nelson from Wisconsin pioneered the movement that led to the first Earth Day on April 22nd, 1970. About 10% of all Americans took part in that first Earth Day celebration.

As the people of God, we have a special duty to preserve the Earth. The Hebrew word for human, 'adam, sounds like the Hebrew word for Earth, 'adamah. The two are closely related. We believe that the Earth is not ours to exploit without limit because it actually belongs to God, as do we and every creature living on the planet. The Psalmist makes that clear. God put humans here to work the planet and to take care of it, as Genesis says, but too often we only work it and forget about the taking care part. But our one Earth is the only planet we have, the only planet we know of that can sustain human life, the only place where God has raised up humans from the dust of the earth. We each have to do our part in preserving it for future generations. We need to keep it the beautiful blue ball floating in space that was photographed rising above the moon by the Apollo 8 astronauts. It truly is a Garden of Eden in a universe of desolate, lifeless, barrenness. And it is our sacred trust from God. As we enjoy the beauties of the spring, let us give thanks and praise to God our Creator for this wonderful planet we call home.

- Rev. Allan C. Lane

Stewardship and Administration Board

Along with Saturday May 18th being the Youth Group plant sale, it is also **S & A's annual Spring Clean Up Day**. So, you can make it a two-for day, get your spring flowers and lend a hand with some easy type house-hold chores. Work time is 9 to 1, with a list of jobs and cleaning supplies provided.

Those were the days...going through an office drawer, I found a file document from 1958 which established the "Furnishing Committee". Original members were John Mitchell (Mark's father), Winifred Hooper (Dorothy's mother-in-law), Gladys Babb, Frieda Fry, and Laura Eastwood (Jan Weber's mother); likely the other two were also related somehow. The committees purpose was to coordinate the internal furnishings of the church and church school building in such a manner that they shall be pleasing and not obtrusive in any way to worship or study. The committee was to report to the Church Board of Trustees. At some point later, the committee ended and the Board of Trustees became Church Council.

--Dave Hakos, chairman of the S&A Board

The Adult Mission Group

The Adult Mission Group has several activities coming up and are excited to involve **YOU** in our plans!

Garage Sale

The Richfield Community Garage Sale takes place on Saturday, June 1, from 9-5. We will need items to sell, which include any treasures you may be willing to donate, with the exception of clothing, televisions, and electronics. **Items may be dropped off**

at the church beginning May 15. Items will be stored in the Hobbitt's Preschool hallway. If you need a pick up or have questions about your donation, please contact Betty Van der Meer (330-620-0977) or the church office.

We will be moving and pricing items the week of May 26 and will need help, along with help on the day of the sale. It's a lot of fun and all proceeds benefit the Adult Mission volunteer work. In the past, we have profited enough on this sale to sponsor one mission trip.

Garage Sale Friends and Family Sneak Peek

Friday, May 31 6:30-8:30

For a \$2 admission fee, you may enjoy coffee and desserts and shop ahead of the Saturday garage sale crowd.



Worship and Parish Ministry Board News

WE BOUGHT A WATER BUFFALO!

Throughout the year we do small events and send the donations to local and not so local non-profits. The WPM Board decided to send the **Super Bowl Square funds** to **Heifer International**. We had \$250 to donate. When I opened the website to find the address, it said "Support a family with a Water Buffalo for \$250". It was a sign. RUCC was meant to get a water buffalo. Per the website, a water buffalo not only provides milk for nutrition but also improves farming techniques. I love it!

Heifer International is a non-profit that works within nineteen countries to support communities through training and development of the quantity and quality of the goods they produce as well as connecting them to markets. Check out their website. www.heifer.org to learn more.

We also have funds from the **Eclipse Party** that we will be donating to **The Hearts of Revere**. A local non-profit for the Revere community that supports household or school supplies and clothing for formals, interviews or sports events as well as spirit wear to disadvantaged students and others. We will be sending a check to them this month.

At a time when we all are feeling the pinch in our pockets and we could be directing this money back into our own checking accounts or RUCC's checking account, I think it is really important that we continue to send donations outward. It is an important part of our mission in showing Christ's light and love to all.

I am happy to take suggestions for other non-profits to direct funds or better yet, ideas for fund raising!

May God Bless You and Keep You,
Maryke Bard
330-607-4319
Marykeandtodd99@gmail.com

Strengthen the Church

Special United Church of Christ Offering
Special offering envelopes can be found in the pew pockets during the month of May.



The Strengthen the Church Offering supports congregations and initiatives that help us live into the United Church of Christ's "big tent" vision. Funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and renewal initiatives in existing congregations. Your conference and the national ministries work together to use these funds for projects that matter now and for the future of our movement. Through this offering, we further our commitment to being a multi-racial/multi-cultural church that is accessible to all.

Youth Group

The RUCC Youth Group is hosting its annual **Plant Sale** on Saturday, May 18th from 8:00 am to noon. We will have vegetables, flowers, and hanging baskets available for you to buy.



Selections will include tomatoes, peppers, marigolds, geraniums, petunias, begonias, impatiens, salvia, and much more! If we have leftover plants, they will be available to buy after church the following day.

Also during May, we will be **accepting donations for our food booth at the Garage Sale**. Look for the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall on items we need such as cans of soda, bottled water, and buns. We will use the proceeds from both events to help fund our summer Mission Trip to Charleston, West Virginia.

I am excited that we can give our kids these experiences to help those in need and grow in their faith, and it all starts with the congregation here at our church. Thank you for your endless support of our Youth Group!

God Bless,
Scott

Christian Education Board

Christian Ed Happenings: Celebrate with Us May 19th!

Join us on Sunday, May 19, as we celebrate our teachers, graduates, and scholarship recipients.

Our teachers spend many hours in lesson planning and carrying out those plans with their students. We thank Becky Monegan, Patty Ellis, Scott Luther and Pastor Alan for their dedication and leadership.

We congratulate our high school graduates George Sobieraj and Jack Miller, who will graduate from Revere High this year! We celebrate their accomplishments and offer our support in their future endeavors!

We also congratulate three college grads: Maggie Gerber, Anne Gill and Victor Hart.

We will be handing out our scholarships to the following recipients. Our Barb Simmons/Sally Buesch scholarship will be going to both George and Jack to help with their college expenses. We will be giving the second installment of the Jim and Ruth Miller scholarship to Sam Gerber and Oliver Miller for their continuing college expenses. Congratulations to all these students on their hard work and accomplishments! Join us in the Fellowship Hall following our church service for cake and to congratulate our students and thank our teachers!

The Interfaith Counsel's Walk for Hunger Sunday, May 5

Richfield UCC will again participate in the Interfaith Counsel's Walk for Hunger.

Participants are asked to wear their blue RUCC t-shirt to our worship service that morning.

On May 5, registration begins at 2:00 pm and the Walk begins at 3:00 pm.

RUCC participants should meet by the registration table at 2:45 pm for a group picture.

Location: Unitarian Universalist Church
3300 Morewood Rd, Fairlawn.

Contact Charlotte Hays for further information at 330-665-0307.

Blessing of the Animals!



The celebration continues May 19th, at 2:00 pm in our pavilion, as we offer up blessings for our furry friends! Bring your pets (furry or not) to have Pastor Allan offer his blessings! They are a vital part of our families and we love to see your furry friends! Treats for your pets will be served afterwards!

Meetings This Month

***Christian Education Board**

Tuesday, May 7 @7:00 pm

***Stewardship & Administration Board**

Wednesday, May 8 @ 7:00 pm

Retirement Village Board

Thursday, May 9 @ 7 pm if needed.

***Worship and Parish Ministry Board**

Monday, May 13 @ 5:00 pm.

***Church Council**

Thursday, May 13 @ 7:00 pm


Men's Discussion Group

Every Wednesday morning 7:00 am in the Gathering Room

Youth Group Mission Participants

Sunday, May 19, following the 10:15 service

***Meetings available to join via ZOOM**



May 5: The Youth Group
Jim Holan Chuck Ellis
Paul & Michal Swan

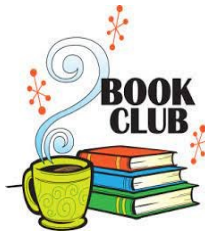
Book Club

Book Club will meet on

Monday, May 20, at 6:00 pm.

The selected reading for May is

"*The Silent Patient*", by Alex Michaelides.



Our Church Garden

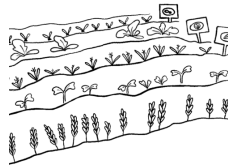
Soon you will see the work in our church garden begin.

We will plant the donations of red geraniums from Pentecost Sunday and begin planting seeds and plants. Our garden harvests will be offered through the summer to the congregation on Sunday mornings. Your cash

donations for the produce from our church garden pays for the monthly sponsorship of Darianis Arce Jinete, a

10-year-old girl from Colombia, South America, who we sponsor through Children International. In 1996, our church started to sponsor children through Children International. Over the years we have sponsored Luz, Maria, Leydi, Carolina and now Darianis.

Darianis is ten years old and lives in Colombia. Here is our recent letter from her.



Sponsors, I hope you are in good health. I want to share with you what I did during vacations. A few days ago, I went to the sea with my mom and grandparents. We had a lot of fun swimming and shared lunch in a hut my grandparents rented. On our way back home, we passed by a mountain and admired the beautiful evening, the mountains and trees, it was truly incredible. We also spent time in parks and visited my aunt. It was a fun vacation.

Additionally, I'm happy because the new school year has started, and I enjoy telling you about the things I do.

Goodbye, Darianis Arce Jinete

May Birthdays

5/2 Lucy Snow

5/2 Rev Allan Lane

5/2 Gary Obenauer

5/3 Mark Mitchell

5/4 Chuck Ellis

5/8 Darrell Hiatt

5/9 Emily Luther

5/14 David Hakos

5/14 Laura Willis

5/15 Pieter van der Meer

5/16 Ron Hays

5/16 Tristan Bard

5/16 Claira Shankland

5/18 Todd Bard

5/19 Megan Bard Haas

5/19 Marley Murphy

5/20 Charlie Simmons

5/22 Breandan Wheeler

5/23 Ben McKay

5/23 Rachael Brown

5/24 Daniel Butera

5/25 Jennifer Knetig

5/25 Mary Ryan

5/29 Bryce Petek

May Anniversaries

5/9 Jeff & Donna Treubig

5/10 Tom & Karen Kiska

5/11 Ben & Brittany Murphy

5/12 Mike & Polly Wheeler

5/18 Chuck & Patty Ellis

5/18 Richard & Kathy Bumblis

5/20 Vicki and Russ Porter

5/27 Kate and Allan Lane



Memorial Service

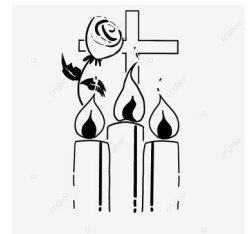
Ray Barker

September 3, 1969--March 26, 2024

On Saturday, May 11, we will have a memorial service at RUCC for Ray Barker, son of Tom and Sherri Barker.

The service will be at 11:00 am.

Tom and Sherri thank you for your cards and sentiments of support during Ray's sickness and passing.



Baptism

Adaline Vinkovich

A May 5th baptism is planned for Adaline, daughter of Holly and Tommy Vinkovich.

Richfield United Church of Christ
4340 W. Streetsboro Rd.
Richfield, Ohio 44286

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**Richfield United Church
of Christ**

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May Activities

Men's Discussion Group Meetings
each Wednesday at 7-8 am at RUCC

May 5: 8:00 am Worship Service in-building / **Worship service** in-building and online at 10:15 am

Baptism of Adaline Vinkovich; Walk For Hunger

May 6, 7 & 8: Hobbits end of the school year celebrations

May 7: Christian Education Board meets at 7:00 pm

AA Groups meet on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday evenings

May 8: Stewardship and Administration Board meets at 7:00 pm

Boy Scouts meet on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm.

May 11: 11:00 am Memorial Service for Ray Barker

May 12: Worship service in-building and online at 10:15 am

May 13: Worship and Parish Ministry Board meets at 5:00 pm / Church Council meets at 7:00 pm

May 16: The Retirement Village Board meets at 7:00 pm if necessary

May 18: Youth Group Plant Sale from 8:00-noon / Church Clean-up Day 9:00-1:00

May 19 Pentecost Sunday: Worship Service at 10:15 am in-building and online at 10:15 am Teacher Recognition, Grad Sunday and Scholarship Award Sunday / Youth Mission Trip meeting after church / Blessing of the Animals at 2:00-3:00 pm

May 20: Book Club meets at 6:00 pm **May 21:** WPM Grab & Go Lunch for OPEN M

May 26: Trinity Sunday: 10:15 am Worship service in-building and online

May 27: Memorial Day, office closed **May 28, 29, 30:** Garage Sale set up **May 31:** Friends & Family Sneak Peek 6:30-8:30 pm