

The Helper



July/August 2021

Strong Heritage Bright Future

Volume 101 Issue 7

Dear First Church of the Resurrection,

The Congregational Meeting on Sunday, July 18, was an important time to be together as a church community, to make necessary changes to our Constitution & Bylaws that reflect our current reality, to hear from one another, and to share some work, hopes, and dreams for the future.

If you were there, you heard me (Pastor Amy) share that our call to serve as your pastors leads us to consider these two questions related to everything we do:

1. How do we care for & facilitate spiritual growth amongst our current membership?
2. How do we innovate for a future where our old strategies no longer work to reach people for Jesus?

To illustrate the challenges and hopes we have for the current cultural moment and the coming future, I (Amy) read a passage from the first chapter of the book *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory* by Tod Bolsinger

Sociologists and theologians refer to [the] recently passed period as Christendom, the seventeen-hundred-year-long era with Christianity at the privileged center of Western cultural life. Christendom gave us “blue laws” and the Ten Commandments in school. It gave us “under God” in the Pledge of Allegiance and exhortations to Bible reading in the national newspapers... It was the day when every “city father” laid out the town square with the courthouse, the library and a First Church of _____ within the center of the city... [T]hese days are long gone. ...[W]hen Sundays are more about soccer and Starbucks than about Sabbath, when Christian student groups are getting derecognized on university campuses, when the fastest growing religious affiliation among young adults is “none,” when there is no moral consensus built on Christian tradition (even among Christians)... then Christendom as a marker of society has clearly passed... [C]hurches [are] stuck and declining, stuck and clinging to the past, stuck and lurching to quick fixes, trying to find an easy answer for what [are] clearly bigger challenges... But the church is also at an exciting crossroads. We are entering a new day, new terrain and a new adventure. We are not alone. The Spirit of God goes before us. The next steps are going to be demanding. More than anything, this moment requires [us] to embrace an adventure-or-die mindset, and find the courage and develop the capacity for a new day. We are heading into uncharted territory and are given the charge to lead a mission where the future is nothing like the past.

The COVID-19 pandemic pushed us as a church into a space of innovation and change with an abrupt and powerful force. It is only normal that our reaction is to long for comfortable and familiar routines. Other cultural changes have come upon us with more subtlety and at a slower pace, but if we look honestly at this cultural moment, we must realize that creativity and experimentation are necessary as we move forward. May God guide us as we embrace experimentation and give us grace to learn from our mistakes as we go.

At the congregational meeting, we shared about the Legacy Wall project: a permanent prominent display honoring the powerful ministry of church over the past 7 generations. We look forward to a celebration of the unveiling of this piece in the near future. God had been faithful in the past and prayerful discernment and honest dialogue will pave the way forward. August 1 we will gather after the worship service to do more of this together. As always, we invite your continued prayers for our church community and that God would use First Church of the Resurrection to reach Canton with the resurrection power and love of Jesus for generations to come.

Grace + Peace

Pastors Amy & JR Rozko

August 2021

Birthdays:

2 nd -Phil Vitale	4 th -Mitch Souers
16 th -Donna Mace	20 th -Carol Brooks
26 th -Joseph Brooks	31 st -Karen Strauch
Daryl Souers	Shirley Jordy

Anniversaries:

18th-Larry & Sue Linerode
21st-Daryl & Dawn Souers

Your Friends and Family at First Church of the Resurrection want to wish you all a joyous celebration and many blessings for the year to come!

Please Pray for:

Shirley Jordy	Janet Bell	Sandy Ratts
Jim Ackelson	Donna Blair	Judy Snyder
Rich & Zella Yohe	Diane Fair	

In the Military:

Scott Gordon	R J Smith	Aaron Schlabach
Josh Porco	Kellan Gier	Scott Smeltzer
Brian George	Steven Okey	Ryan Souers
Luke Groves	Robert Blair	

Serving as Mission Partners:

Leonel & Belgica Ortiz - Columbia
Phil, Kate, Parker, Josiah & Opal Bookhamer – Hermitage House
Greg, Megan, Lydia & Theodore Owens - Middle East
Andrew & Sarah – Middle East

Your Leadership Council at Work July 13, 2021



- Quarterly mission payments were sent.
- Church website needs rebuilt after crashing.
- Congregational meeting 7/18 was discussed.

**Servants for God Forever,
Leadership Council**

The Congregation unanimously voted to accept the changes and updates to the Bylaws and Constitution proposed by the Leadership Council at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, July 18, 2021.

Usher's Committee Report Sunday Attendance

June 2021

10:00 AM

Date	Adults	Children	Total
June 6	32	4	36
June 13*	22	3	25
June 20	34	4	38
June 27*	26	3	29
Total	114	14	128

*Zoom Meetings

Sunday total average = 31

Sunday average of children = 3

Sunday, August 1st, all are invited to stay after the morning worship service for a Congregational Conversation.

This will be a time for us as a congregation to continue a dialogue on the spiritual priorities and future of First Church of the Resurrection. Please come prayerfully to this space; ready to hear from the Holy Spirit and one another.

We will conclude no later than noon.

May God continue to bind us together as a community through this dialogue and give us holy imagination and courage for the future God is inviting us into



Pray for the following local churches, their Pastors and leadership:

True Light Christian
Union Baptist Church
Wells of Joy Church
Westbrook Park United Methodist
Westminster Community Church
Whipple Heights Christian Alliance

Financial Report For June 2021

Income: \$ 9,449
Expenses: \$13,040
\$ -3,591





Gary Fair, passed away on Sunday, July 4, 2021. Gary is survived by his loving wife, Diane Fair, his sons Todd Fair and Mark Fair as well as grandchildren and brother, Bob Fair. Gary taught wood shop at Souers Junior High School. He was 32nd Degree member of the Scottish Rite Valley of Canton and a member of the Massillon Tiger Football Booster Club, where he served as treasurer and co-chair of the Sideliners. Gary was a huge Massillon Tigers fan and Ohio State Buckeyes fan. He loved woodworking and fishing. Most of all Gary loved his grandchildren.

**SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE
JULY 2021-AUGUST 2021**

JULY

25- Worship on Zoom at 10AM

AUGUST

1- Worship in person at 10AM (Communion Sunday)

8- Worship on Zoom at 10AM

15- Worship in person at 10AM

23- Worship on Zoom at 10AM

Zoom Information:

Via Computer or smartphone app: rezcanton.org/zoom

Password: together

Via phone: 929-205.6099

Meeting ID: 986 2844 6044 – Password 47689069



Thank you for being a part of what God is doing here through your prayers and partnership. This work could never be done without the prayers and ongoing monthly and annual partnership of church communities and individuals like you!

Love, Andrew & Sarah

Dear First Church of the Resurrection,
Thank you for partnering with us! As you're reading this we will be getting settled in Lebanon. Our company has changed its name to GateCity Global. Thank you for your continued support!

Blessings,
The Owen Family

This is from one of our Mission Partners, **RAHAB**. They have the offices in the balcony of the sanctuary.

In the month of June they were able to help a lady furnish her new apartment who has not slept on her own bed since 2003. She was one of the women that were baptized at the Canton Inn. She was very excited and is doing well.

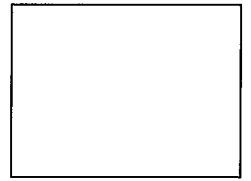
This month they're doing Christmas in July. They're hoping to replenish much needed items that they will use throughout the rest of the year. The biggest item they need is gift cards to Target or Amazon so they can purchase needs as they arise. The other items they are collecting are:

- Women's underwear all sizes (new)
- Women's deodorant
- Recovery Bibles
- Paper towels
- Kitchen size trash bags
- Ranch salad dressing

You can take them to their Fairlawn or North Canton locations and they also have this set up:
You can drop off items at one of the 2 drop-in homes on Sunday, July 25th between 11 am-2pm
4350 Portage in North Canton
450 Matthews Street in Akron
You can also bring them to the church by Sunday, July 25 and we'll make sure things get there.

The Helper

Serving God for 210 years
First Church of the Resurrection
901 East Tuscarawas St.
Canton, OH 44707



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



XXX

HELPER DEADLINE the 15th of each month

First Church of the Resurrection's Staff

Rev. JR Rozko, Lead Pastor
Rev. Amy Rozko, Lead Pastor
Katrina Kenyon, Worship Leader
Seth Kenyon, Music Director
Tina Copeland, Office Secretary
Church Phone: 330.453.1719
Office Hours: Mon. & Wed. 10:00am-2:30pm

email addresses

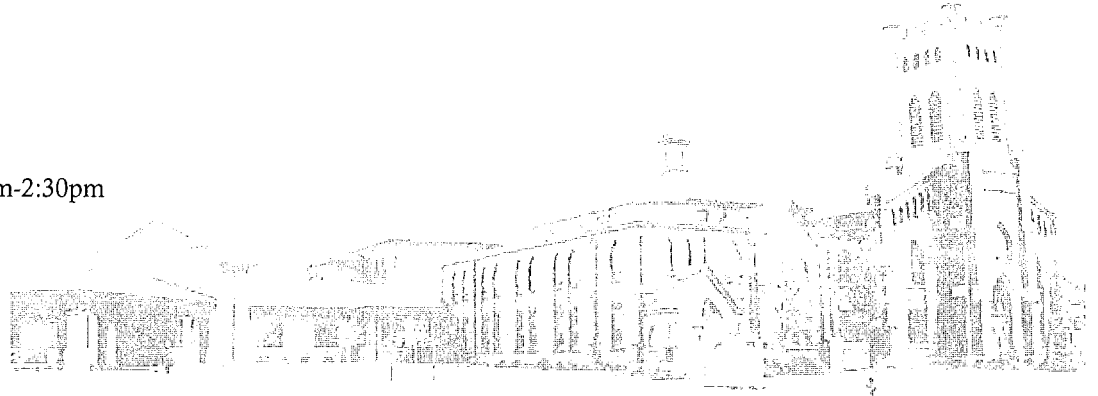
jr@firstchurchcanton.com

amy@firstchurchcanton.com

tina@firstchurchcanton.com

website-www.firstchurchcanton.com

Visit our Facebook page



Our Vision Statement:

We invite seekers and followers to come with us on an ever deepening journey of discipleship, as we serve God by building the community of Jesus.

Sunday, July 25 | *The Good & Beautiful Life:* *Learning to Live Without Lust*

OPENING PRAYER

Offer this prayer, silently or aloud, pausing or returning to whatever grabs your attention.

Strengthen us, O God, in our inner beings with power through your Spirit; that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith, being rooted and grounded in love:

To God be glory in Christ Jesus to all generations!

SONG OF WORSHIP - SELECTIONS BY SETH & KATRINA KENYON

Read or sing the words of these songs, asking the Holy Spirit to solidify these images and ideas in your heart.

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Verse

Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus
Look full in His wonderful face
And the things of earth will grow strangely
dim
In the light of His glory and grace

Verse 3

All to Jesus I surrender
Make me Savior wholly Thine
Let me feel the Holy Spirit
Truly know that Thou art mine

Chorus

I Surrender All

Verse 1

All to Jesus I surrender
All to Him I freely give
I will ever love and trust Him
In His presence daily live

Verse 4

All to Jesus I surrender
Lord I give myself to Thee
Fill me with Thy love and power
Let Thy blessing fall on me

Chorus

Chorus

I surrender all
I surrender all
All to Thee my blessed Savior
I surrender all

Verse 2

All to Jesus I surrender
Humbly at His feet I bow
Worldly pleasures all forsaken
Take me Jesus take me now

Chorus

SCRIPTURE READING | MATTHEW 5:27-30; PSALM 145:10-19

Spend time reading over these texts from Scripture. Read them through one time and then go back, pausing and pondering at each place where God is calling your attention.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Consider these questions in light of the scripture reading. You may want to journal your response or take notes in your Bible of anything that stands out to you.

1. What catches your attention as you read this passage?
2. What do you take to be the central message of this passage and what does it seem to disclose about God?
3. Where does this passage intersect with your life at the moment?

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

God, may all who confess your Name be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Names may be spoken aloud or in silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Call our attention not only to the needs of our community, but to its assets and strengths.

Help us to see your presence in the people
and places around us and give us a holy
imagination for the mission you
have called us to.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Silence

INVITATION TO MISSION

Sisters and brothers, as those who have been given all we'll ever need in Christ and through the gift of his body, the Church, let us step into the coming week in a spirit of contentment, and generosity, remembering that in the kingdom of God, we are free to live without lust of any kind. **Amen**