

The

SERENDIPITY



June, 2013



Summertime, and the livin' is easy . . .

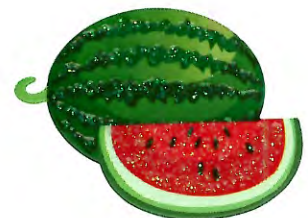
Bring on the fun, sun, and vacation!



ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

A family rooted in Christ, growing in grace, and living in love.

223 West College Avenue
Bluffton, OH 45817
419-358-5641
Rev. Carol Clements (330-204-0802)



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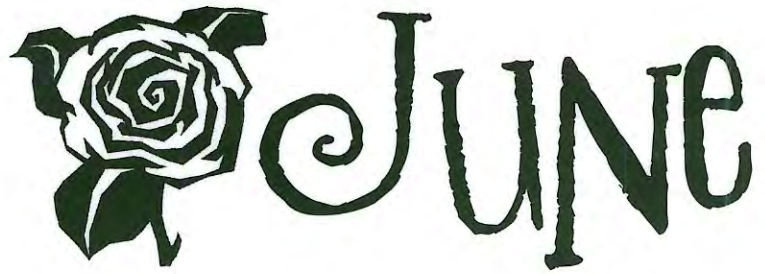
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Sue Hardwick
Organists
Sue Hardwick and
Barbara Plaughter
Choir Director
Dr. Crystal Sellers Battle
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Blaine Bauman

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Ed Yeager
Financial Secretary
Blaine Bauman



June is named after Juno, the Roman goddess of marriage and wife of Jupiter. It is considered lucky to be married in June.

birthstone: pearl
flower: rose
trait: health



Did you know. . .

- June is Dairy Month, Candy Month, and Rose Month.
- Radio was patented on June 2, 1896.
- The shopping cart was first introduced June 4, 1937, at an Oklahoma City grocery store.
- D-Day was June 6, 1944.
- June 7, 1786, was the first day ice cream was sold in the U.S.
- The Baseball Hall of Fame opened on June 12, 1939 — the 100th anniversary of the baseball's invention in 1839.
- The U.S. Army was founded on June 14, 1775.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was recognized by Congress on June 22, 1942.
- The remote control was introduced on June 29, 1964.

About 2.4 million weddings are held each year in the U.S. with 10.8% in the month of June. \$22,000 is the average cost with \$800 spent on the bride's dress and \$2,000 on the ring. 80% of traditional ceremonies are held in churches or synagogues.

DAD

Special Days:
Father's Day, Flag Day,
1st Day of Summer

Spring being a tough act to follow, God created June.

- Al Bernstein



Her highness is
thinking again . . .

When Karen found out that another baby was on the way, she did what she could to help her 3-year-old-son, Michael, prepare for a new sibling. They find out that the new baby is going to be a girl, and day after day, night after night, Michael sings to his sister in Mommy's tummy.

The pregnancy progresses normally for Karen, an active member of the Panther Creek United Methodist Church in Morristown, Tennessee. Then the labor pains begin; every five minutes, but complications arise during delivery. Hours of labor. Would a C-section be required?

Finally, Michael's little sister is born, but she is in serious condition. With siren howling in the night, the ambulance rushes the infant to the neonatal intensive care unit at St. Mary's Hospital in Knoxville. The days inch by; the little girl gets worse. The pediatric specialist tells the parents, "There is very little hope. Be prepared for the worst." Karen and her husband contact a local cemetery about a burial plot. They have fixed up a special room in their home for the new baby and now they plan a funeral. Michael keeps begging his parents to let him see his sister. "I want to sing to her," he says. Week two in intensive care, and it looks as if a funeral will come before the end of the week is over.

Michael keeps nagging about singing to his sister, but kids are never allowed in the ICU; Karen makes up her mind. She will take Michael whether they like it or not. If he doesn't see his sister now, he may never see her alive. She dresses him in an oversized scrub suit and marches him into the ICU. He looks like a walking laundry basket, but the head nurse recognizes him as a child and bellows, "Get him out now. Kids are not allowed in here!" The mother rises up strong in Karen, and the usually mild-mannered lady glares steel-eyed into the head nurse's face. "He is not leaving until he sings to his sister!"

Karen tows Michael to his sister's bedside. He gazes at the tiny infant losing the battle to live, and he begins to sing. In the pure-hearted voice of a 3-year-old, Michael sings: "You are my sunshine, my only sunshine, you make me happy when skies are gray . . ." Instantly, the baby girl responds. Her pulse rate becomes calm and steady. *Keep on singing, Michael!* "You never know, dear, how much I love you, please don't take my sunshine away." The ragged, strained breathing becomes as smooth as a kitten's purr. *Keep on singing, Michael!*

"The other night dear, as I lay sleeping, I dreamed I held you in my arms . . ." Michael's little sister relaxes as rest--healing rest--seems to sweep over her. *Keep on singing, Michael!* Tears begin to flow from Karen as well as the bossy head nurse. Karen glows in spite of her tears. "You are my sunshine, my only sunshine. Please don't take my sunshine away."

Funeral plans are scrapped. The next day--the very next day!--the little girl is well enough to go home! Women's Day magazine called it "the miracle of a brother's song." The medical staff just called it a miracle. Karen called it a miracle of God's love. **NEVER GIVE UP ON THE PEOPLE YOU LOVE!**



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An unknown father who began to consider the example he should set for his children penned the following poem:

A careful man I ought to be;
a little fellow follows me;
I do not care to go astray
for fear he'll go the self-same way.

I cannot once escape his eyes;
what 'ere he sees me do,
he tries—like me, he says,
he's going to be, the little chap
who follows me.

I must remember as I go,
through summer's sun and winter's snow,
I'm building for the years to be,
for a little fellow follows me.

"A father is a guy who has snapshots in his wallet where his money used to be."
—Author unknown

Happy Father's Day!

AND HOW DID THAT TRADITION BEGIN?

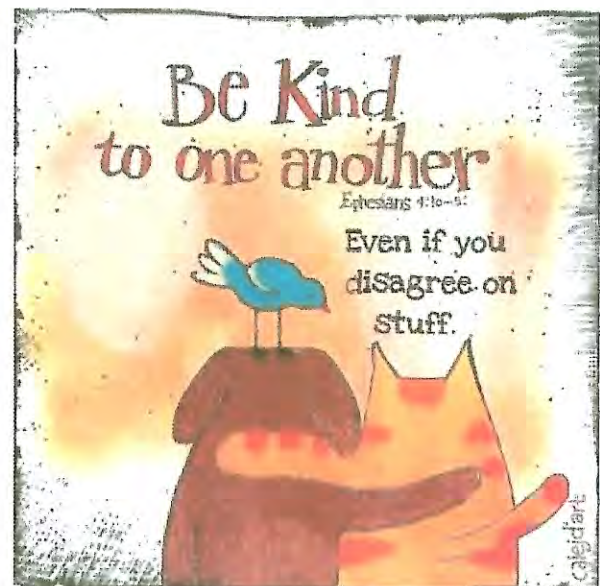
The beginning of Father's Day . . .

One day in 1901, a young woman named Sonora Smart Dodd sat in a pew listening to a sermon honoring mothers. Her mother had died some years before, so her father had raised her by himself. She began to wonder why there wasn't a day to honor fathers.

Sonora decided to arrange for a tribute to be paid to her father at a church in her hometown of Spokane, WA. The date was June 19, 1910. Many believe that this was the beginning of Father's Day.

Another view is that Dr. Robert Webb, pastor of Central Church, in Fairmont, WV, held a service giving tribute to fathers in 1908.

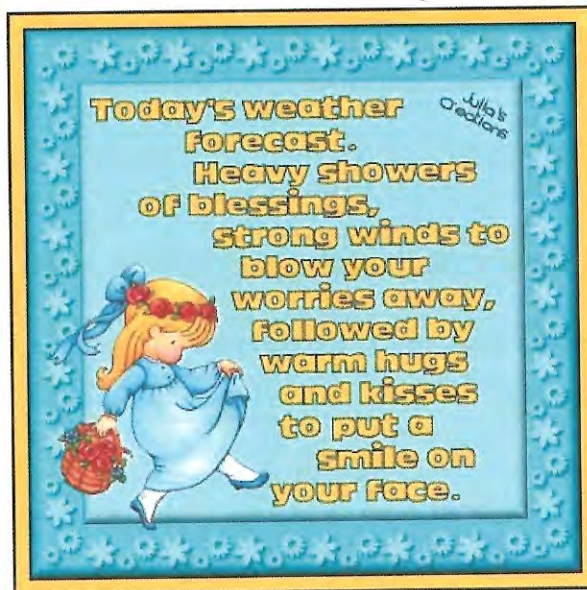
Regardless of which story is the correct one, it is certain that President Calvin Coolidge was the first president to choose a special day to honor fathers. He proclaimed the third Sunday in June as Father's Day in 1924.





CONGRATULATIONS to our GRADUATES!

Brittany Bucher from New London, OH, graduated from Bluffton University on Sunday, May 5, 2013. Her area of study was dietetics. She is the granddaughter of Carol Jean and Rich Bucher. Way to go, Brittany!



Ed and Nancy Yeager proudly announce the graduation of their grandson, Alex Koch, from Wapakoneta High School on June 1. He will be attending Bowling Green State University in the fall. Best wishes for a wonderful college experience, Alex!

Graduating from Miami East High School (near Troy) on May 24 will be Dakota Potts, grandson of Duane and Deb Bollenbacher. Best wishes for a bright future, Dakota!

Sara and George McCune are very proud of their granddaughter, Abbey Lynn McCune, who graduated from the Ohio State University. Best wishes for a most successful career with those animals you truly love!

HOW OLD ARE WE THIS YEAR?

If you said that St. John's United Church of Christ is 140 years old this year, you would be absolutely correct! With that thought in mind, Pastor Carol would like some volunteers to help plan a celebration Sunday (perhaps to be held in the fall of the year). If you would like to help plan this event, please let her know of your interest.

**ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2013 COMMITTEES**

Audit, Budget and Finance:

*	Mark Badertscher Blaine Bauman Jenny Bracy Jason Cox	David Herr Connie Kempf Steve Kindle Ed Yeager
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Banner:

*	Carolyn M. Gillam Carol Groman Mary Ann Jordan	Sara McCune Shirley Rock
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Evangelism:

*	Duane Bollenbacher Jenny Bracy Pam Everett Bob Everett Carolyn M. Gillam	Carol Groman Connie Kempf Sara McCune Arliss Plaughter
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Flowers and Vestments:

Linda Benroth	Nancy Yeager
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Funeral:

*	Sue Amstutz Linda Benroth Mary Bonnell Carolyn M. Gillam Mary Ann Jordan Connie Kempf	Donna Kidd Penny Kindle Dorothy Steiner * Donna Warren Nancy Yeager
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Hospitality:

Linda Benroth Jenny Bracy Mary Coletta Becky Cox Carolyn M. Gillam Carol Groman Mary Ann Jordan	* Connie Kempf Penny Kindle Sara McCune Dorothy Steiner Dorothy Steiner Donna Warren Nancy Yeager
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Memorial:

Joyce Badertscher
Jenny Bracy
* Becky Cox
Mary Coletta
David Herr

Mary Ann Jordan
Connie Kempf
Penny Kindle
Steve Kindle

Music and Worship:

Crystal Sellers Battle
Blaine Bauman
Jenny Bracy
Mary Coletta

Sue Hardwick
Richard Jordan
Barbara Plaughter
* Nancy Yeager

Properties (Church and Outside Premises):

Tom Benroth
Morris Groman
Randy Cox
Jason Cox

Matthew Jordan
Arliss Plaughter
Lonnie Warren
Ed Yeager

*Denotes Chairperson of Committee

Evening Prayer !





Excuses, Excuses, Excuses

[Excerpt from Luke 14:15-24](#)

Jesus said to him, "Someone gave a great dinner and invited many... But they all alike began to make excuses."

Reflection by Martin B. Copenhaver

Early in our marriage my wife, Karen, and I got tickets to see *The Elephant Man*, which at the time was the hottest show on Broadway.

At dinner before the show, I took the tickets out of my pocket. I'm with Charlie Brown, who said, "Happiness is holding the tickets in your hand." But as I looked at the tickets, my face went ashen. They were good seats alright, but the tickets were for Tuesday night and this was Wednesday. We were a day late.

We quickly paid the bill and headed over to the theater. I showed the tickets to the ticket taker at the door and told him the story of how we ended up with tickets for the wrong night. Before I could get very far, however, he pointed to a corner of the lobby and said, "Wait over here for Miss Morris."

After a few minutes passed, I saw the ticket taker talking to others and then pointing to the corner where we were standing. Tentatively, we began to share our stories. One couple left their tickets at home. A woman said she picked up the wrong purse when she left her house. Two folks had an excuse very similar to mine—they had not noticed that their tickets were for the matinee performance that day and not the evening performance. Everyone had their excuses. In one another's company, however, our excuses no longer seemed compelling or unique. They became rather embarrassing, actually.

Eventually Miss Morris came over to our little group, patiently heard our stories and let us in the theater—for standing room.

I wonder how many excuses the omnipotent Miss Morris hears every day. And if Miss Morris hears a lot of excuses, I wonder how many excuses God hears every day.



WE'RE ALWAYS
READY FOR A
PARTY!

Let's celebrate . . .

**June birthdays and
anniversaries . . .**

- | | |
|---------|---|
| June 7 | Mildred Criblez
*Don and Shirley Rock |
| June 8 | Sharlee Badertscher |
| June 9 | Carol Jean Bucher |
| June 10 | *Larry and Becky Bucher |
| June 15 | *Larry and Crystal Battle |
| June 18 | Jonas and Isaiah Kindle |
| June 23 | *George and Sara McCune |
| June 24 | Blaine Bauman
The United Church of
Christ |



A FABLE FOR TODAY

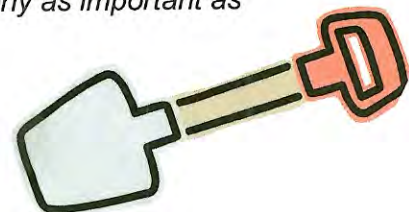


One day, a farmer's donkey fell down into a well. The animal cried piteously for hours as the farmer tried to figure out a way to get him out. Finally, he decided it was probably impossible and the animal was old and the well was dry anyway, so it just wasn't worth it to try and retrieve the donkey. The farmer asked his neighbors to come over and help him cover up the well. They all grabbed shovels and began to shovel dirt into the well.

At first, when the donkey realized what was happening, he cried horribly. Then, to everyone's amazement, he quieted down and let out some happy brays. A few shovel loads later, the farmer looked down the well to see what was happening and was astonished at what he saw! With every shovel of dirt that hit his back, the donkey was shaking it off and taking a step up!

As the farmer's neighbors continued to shovel dirt on top of the animal, he continued to shake it off and take a step up. Pretty soon, to everyone's amazement, the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and trotted off!

MORAL: *Life is going to shovel dirt on you. The trick to getting out of the well is to shake it off and take a step up. Every adversity can be turned into a stepping stone. The way to get out of the deepest well is by never giving up but by shaking yourself off and taking a step up. What happens to you isn't nearly as important as how you react to it!*



COMING IN JUNE . . .

Sunday, June 2 – summer worship schedule

9 a.m. - Sunday School

10 a.m. – Worship service and Holy
Communion

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| TUESDAY (4) | LADIES MEET AT ARBY'S (9 A.M.)
TOPS (6 P.M.) |
| WEDNESDAY (5) | MEN MEET AT ARBY'S (8:30 A.M.)
LADIES MEET AT THE CHURCH TO TRAVEL TO SWAN
HOUSE FOR LUNCH (11:15 A.M.) |
| THURSDAY (6) | COMMUNITY MEAL AT SENIOR CENTER (6 P.M.) |
| TUESDAY (11) | WOMEN MEET AT ARBY'S (9 A.M.)
TOPS (6:30 P.M.) |
| WEDNESDAY (12) | MEN MEET AT ARBY'S (8:30 A.M.) |
| THURSDAY (13) | CONSISTORY (7 P.M.) |
| TUESDAY (18) | WOMEN MEET AT ARBY'S (9 A.M.)
TOPS (6:30 P.M.) |
| WEDNESDAY (19) | MEN MEET AT ARBY'S (8:30 A.M.) |
| THURSDAY (20) | COMMUNITY MEAL AT SENIOR CENTER (6 P.M.) |
| TUESDAY (25) | WOMEN MEET AT ARBY'S (9 A.M.)
TOPS (6:30 P.M.) |
| WEDNESDAY (26) | MEN MEET AT ARBY'S (8:30 A.M.) |

Frequently Asked Questions About Our Church's Wider Mission and CUE

Q. How are Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) funds used?

Our goal is faithful service to Jesus Christ through the use of our resources.

In 2013, the OCWM financial goal is \$410,000. With income from other sources (directed giving, interest, etc) it is anticipated that the income will be \$444,900. Of the total, \$233,700 is budgeted to remain in the Association where it will be used to help churches find pastors, provide education/resources for laity and clergy, support churches seeking to be involved in church revitalization, connect churches with one another and the wider church. \$176,300 is budgeted to be sent to the Ohio Conference. The Conference will retain 3/4 of this to support summer camps and retreat opportunities; youth, education, and spirituality resources; our connections with ecumenical partners and the wider ministries of the UCC. The other 1/4 is sent to the national ministries of the UCC which provide local and overseas mission work, written and video resources in all areas of local church life, the pension program, health and property insurance, programs in justice and witness, programs for youth, women and men's groups.

Q. Who makes the decision about allocation of OCWM funds?

Lay and clergy delegates who attend the Annual Meetings of the Northwest Ohio Association, the Ohio Conference and the General Synod of the United Church of Christ make decision about the allocations of their respective funds.

Q. Can we designate our OCWM funding?

The Association encourages its churches to support unified OCWM funding with support being distributed to the Association, Conference and National Ministries of the United Church of Christ. However, a congregation does have the right to designate its OCWM support to the Association, Conference or certain ministries of the national UCC.

Q. How do we communicate our OCWM goal to the Association?

Please indicate your goal on the Goal Sheet and forward it to the Association Office.

Q. Are we obligated to meet the OCWM goal we adopt?

Congregations are asked to do their best to meet or exceed their goal. Churches that anticipate a significant shortfall are asked to communicate that information to the Association.

Q. What is CUE?

CUE is the way in which we help to fund the three UCC seminaries in our region: Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri; Chicago Theological Seminary in Chicago, Illinois; and United Theological Seminary in New Brighton, Minnesota.

Q. How is our congregation's goal for CUE calculated?

The recommendation is that each church give the equivalent of 2% of their local operating expenses reported for the previous year. However, the Association CUE Committee has provided the specific goals for churches.

Q. How much of OCWM that stays in the Association is used for administration?

Of every dollar, 87 cents is used to support our work with churches seeking pastors, churches having difficulties, church revitalization, celebrations, pastoral care and support, communications with churches, pastors, Ohio Conference, national ministries and ecumenical ministries. It supports the work of our Ministry Teams, Committees, and Lay School of Religion. 13 cents is used for administration which includes maintaining the building (where many of our Ministry Teams/Committees meet) and maintaining records of pastors, churches, programs etc..

Our Church's Wider Mission...

In The Northwest Ohio Association

The Northwest Ohio Association is a community of local churches and pastors working together and supporting one another to strengthen the ministry and mission of Jesus Christ. Our strength is in our connections. Below are some examples of how our churches are impacted by our connections as an Association.

1. What are some ways we support local churches?

- Provide individuals available to assist churches in areas such as stewardship, conflict, Christian education, youth ministry, pastoral misconduct, church revitalization
- Resource and support search processes for new local church pastoral leadership
- Make grants for revitalization through the Covenant Fund
- Maintain a Resource Center with materials for loan
- Process and direct financial gifts to local and global missions

We also support leadership development through the NWOA Lay School of Religion (a four-year program of classes) and various workshops and information for lay leaders.

2. In what ways do we support pastors and authorized ministers?

- Provide Special Events such as Church Professional Retreat, Retired Ministers' Luncheon, Periodic Support Consultations, Boundary Training
- Encourage networking within Regions and Clusters
- Provide assistance in seeking new settings for ministry
- Offer pastoral care
- Encourage "Situational Support Consultations" to address difficulties
- Provide emergency financial assistance

We also encourage individuals who are seeking a call to ordained ministry through guidance in the In Care process, making scholarship grants, and supporting our seminaries through CUE.

3. We also celebrate and strengthen our ministry together through the following ways: women's rallies; youth events; leadership for confirmation and other summer camps; Regional events; joint mission projects, Association meetings, installations, connections to the mission and ministries of the Ohio Conference, UCC Covenanted Ministries, and ecumenical settings.

4. How do churches and individuals know about these ministries and missions?

We produce the Vine and it is emailed to all the churches along to all of the local church moderators. The Association website is available to all (www.nwoa.org) and the E Connections, (Ohio Conference) is emailed to pastors and Association lay leaders.

The work of the Northwest Ohio Association is funded by giving to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) and directed gifts to the Association. 57% of OCWM Basic Support remains within the Association to support our work.