

### New Announcements

**This morning's altar flowers** are given by Liz Duncan to the Glory of God and in memory of Bill Duncan, whose birthday is May 11th.

**Bread for the World Offering of Letters:** To help those who are hungry, please join us in the choir room or the Social Hall after church today, where we will be writing letters to Congress. If you can't attend today, see Rick Lorentz for supplies to write a letter on your own time. Suggestions for the letter content can be found in today's bulletin insert.

**Looking for something to wear to the Cleveland Pride Parade on Saturday, June 24th? How about an ONA t-shirt?** The Open and Affirming (ONA) Coalition of the UCC has t-shirts for sale that benefit the Coalition. For more information, visit <https://www.booster.com/openandaffirming> or phone the Coalition at 216-736-3228. Hurry -- the sale ends on May 13th!

**"I say all the time that every moment we have to live our life is a blessing. So often I have found myself taking it for granted. Every hug from a family member. Every laugh we share with friends. Even the times of solitude are all blessings. Every second of every day is a gift. After Saturday evening, I know I truly understand how blessed I am for each second I am given."** These beautiful words were written by Jessica Ghawi, a young broadcast journalist from Denver, who was killed in the Aurora, Colorado, theater shooting just weeks after writing them. Jessi's story, as told by her parents, Lonnie and Sandy Phillips, is part of the documentary **"Under the Gun,"** which will be shown on Monday, May 15th, at 7:00 p.m. at Brecksville UCC (23 Public Square, Brecksville 44141). A \$10 donation is requested for this special screening, which will include a post-screening conversation with Sandy Phillips. For more information, phone the Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence at 419-244-7442.

**Is our diet destroying God's creation? Are we depriving others of wholesome food because of what we choose to eat? Are we causing unnecessary suffering to animals? Join us for a presentation and conversation with Nelli Johnson to learn more about a plant-based diet, after social time on Sunday, May 21st in the Social Hall.** A lawyer and resident of Cleveland Heights, Nelli and her partner James will talk with us about the social justice aspects and environmental impact of the contemporary western diet. Nelli spoke last year on this topic to the Highland Heights Green Task Force. All are welcome.

**The Faith Reading Group** will meet on Wednesday, June 7th, to discuss Jackie Copleton's *A Dictionary of Mutual Understanding*. Discussion in the parlor starts at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome. Please come.

**Come to tea!** The members of the Richmond Heights High School Culinary Club invite the members of Faith Church to join them for a luncheon tea this Thursday, May 11th, from noon until 1:30 p.m. in the Social Hall. This will be an opportunity for members of our congregation to meet the young people who have been learning cooking skills and enjoying wonderful food this past academic year. **Due to the limited number of hours our young chefs have to prepare this high tea, seating is limited to the first 30 members of Faith who sign up opposite the kitchen, so please sign up before you leave church today.**

**WRA renews its support of the Culinary Club:** The Mission Ministry Team of the Western Reserve Association recently awarded, for the second time, a grant of \$2,000 to the Richmond Heights High School Culinary Club that meets here at Faith Church. Pastor Gene McAfee, congregation president Barb Holtz, and faculty sponsor and English teacher Jaclyn Davey made the grant application on behalf of the Club, which is nearing the end of its first academic year at Faith. Funds from the grant will provide basic supplies for the Club, as well as scholarships to defray the cost of off-site activities. Members of Faith Church, especially Dave Holtz and Kathy Lorentz, have provided ongoing support for the Club, which seeks to help young people learn to shop, cook, and enjoy nutritious and environmentally responsible meals. Our Association's ongoing support ensures that this work of the Club can continue for the foreseeable future. Congratulations to Club sponsor Jaclyn Davey, assistant Club sponsor and special education teacher Elizabeth Jasina, and the members of the Culinary Club!

**Mark your calendar to meet our Muslim neighbors:** On Saturday, May 13th, the Muslim Association of Cleveland East (MACE), the local Muslim community in Richmond Heights, will welcome area residents to an open house from 3 - 5 p.m. The MACE Islamic Center is located at 26901 Chardon Rd., Richmond Heights. Many of us are unfamiliar with the worship practices of our Muslim neighbors, and this will be a great opportunity to learn more about Islam and to meet some of our neighbors. A flyer from MACE is expected soon, but if you're interested, mark your calendar now.

**Faith Friends** will visit Holden Arboretum on Tuesday, May 23rd. We will meet at 12:00 noon for a brown bag lunch and the tram ride will be at 1:00 p.m. There is space for only 15 people. Cost for the tour is \$9.00 and payment is requested by Thursday, May 18th, and can be given to Sally Templar or Barbara Garriss. Meet at the church at 11:00 a.m. to carpool. The sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board across from the kitchen.

**Thank you, everyone,** for your kind words, cards, and gifts at Easter and on my birthday. Your thoughtfulness and generosity make every birthday and every holiday at Faith special. God bless you all! --Gene