

Newsletter

United Church of Christ East Goshen

July/August 2020

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Four Freedoms

I have always loved Norman Rockwell. As a young person I saw his paintings (or copies) in the doctor's office: the scary needle the doc was administering; in the drug store next to the soda fountain I smiled at the couple in love sharing a straw and a soda. I saw the war/returning of soldiers on the front covers of my grandfather's Post magazine covers: a mama with arms stretched out as a soldier returning from the war with a small duffle bag and clothes hanging on the lines drying; and the young marine with the flag folded in his hands as he sat on an old can in the old shop with a crowd of young and old looking on, listening to his stories. And, of course, the framed copy in Miss C's music office, of a young boy trumpet player, looking on at his music, with his legs swung across the armed over stuffed red chair in his home, just playing for the pleasure of it, cheeks puffed out and a little dog peeking out listening. I felt the instant call to play an instrument and enter a world with a musical relationship as a friend for life.

In late high school I discovered another series of 4 paintings by Norman Rockwell called the Four Freedoms. Freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want and freedom from fear. Today as I view them, I notice that everyone is Caucasian in the paintings, except for a very few people who have tanner skin. There is a calm to the painting: no yelling or ornery, no social distancing or masks. When the man in the Freedom of Speech painting stands, everyone very politely turns to him, listens as he speaks with an old dirty jacket on and with nails dirty from work probably in a coal mine, while others are in jackets and suits, look on but he has a right to speak because he is as important as the richer ones, in some kind of town hall. There is the 1950's look of a mother and father tucking their 2 angelic looking children into bed under the freedom from fear. Clean sheets, sparse but enough, a shared bed and the watchful eye from the couple who believe they have the right to keep their children safe. The turkey in the painting freedom from want, I know now as an adult never turns out that golden brown, and children are rarely that polite waiting

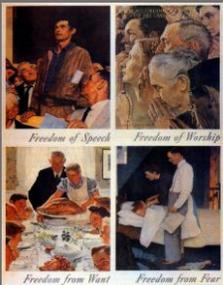
for the meal to begin. All the dishes match in the table scene and the apron the mother is wearing is white, starched looking exceptionally clean after cooking and preparing all day. But here too it is not a diverse looking group, and not abundance on the table but enough.

But I remember these were painted by a white man from Vermont, who had skill with a pencil and brush, who lived with a hope and imagination of what was possible in a simplistic way. He believed he was shedding some light on places and people forgotten in America. He does put women, the young, the common workers, the poor, the diverse faithful, lonely, and the joy which comes from being alive as a young person in his works.

I read that when Mr. Rockwell first undertook to paint the Four Freedoms he thought he could finish them in two months and it actually took him 7. He said, "The job was too big for me, it should have been tackled by Michelangelo." But as time would have it, they were not only well received and loved but it is said these freedom portraits came to even help win the war, posters with the painting were everywhere and they were called to "keep the light of freedom burning." Even though the paintings may seem simple, the call to freedom is still deep and for us.

These are good moments for each of us to think of what we hold true for all of God's people. What are the freedoms we would go to war for, or speak out about? Or passionately brave the bullies or the nay-sayers, or even our family? Or congregation, if they disagreed? Does everyone deserve health care? Does every human being deserve to be safe when they sleep? Is it right that some can worship their God and some cannot in the same area of town? Do statistics lie when we see the incongruent numbers of people of color in the prisons? Are some inferior deserving different treatment or pay, or set of judgements or value? While in the midst of this time when life is in such an uproar, and we are at our wits ends, let's not just imagine life as it was before but demand change and pray for a better place to call our home!

May we cherish and respect, share and advance our freedoms! ~ Pastor Angelee



Mark Your Calendars

July 4 – NO
Roots & Roofs
Happy
Independence
Day!

July 8 – NO
Café Script

July 20 – 7 pm
Church
Council
Meeting

Aug. 24 – 7 pm
Church
Council
Meeting

COVID-19

Reopening Update:

Your council and reopening committee have been reading and reflecting on our plans to keep all of us as safe and healthy as possible. The congregation will receive plenty of notice as dates for reopening are set and plans are put in motion. During this process cleaning, spacing, different ways to worship are being considered and local governmental laws are being followed. Stay tuned for further updates and information.



50th Anniversary Preparations!

Next year, 2021, UCC East Goshen will celebrate our 50th anniversary. This calls for celebration! We need your ideas and help in making 2021 a year filled with memories and dreams. Please let Beth Sayler or Pastor Angelee know if you have ideas or time to share in this endeavor. And if you have any photos of church people or activities, we would love to have copies.



Thank You!

Thank you for your continued financial support of UCCEG. Your faithful giving has helped us to continue to serve our members and community. A Paycheck Protection Plan (PPP) loan has helped us with payroll expenses in the last six weeks. I expect the loan to be fully forgiven. This helps make up for the loss of donations from use of the building by outside groups.



Food Donations

If you would like to donate to our pantry outreach, please drop non-perishable food items outside our church on the bench from 8 AM - 12:30 PM Sunday morning! We will send them on to help those in need. Thanks for remembering God's call to serve each other!



Café Script!

Café Script will NOT meet on July 8. We look forward to resuming on July 15. Our Café Script Bible study meets using Zoom at **11 AM on Wednesdays**. All are welcome!

[Click here to join the Café Script Zoom meeting.](#)



Garden Opportunities!

Each year the harvest from our Gleaning Garden is donated to help feed local people in need.

Beth Anne Keates is looking for volunteers to help with the garden, especially during July. You and/or your immediate family can participate and still keep social distance. If you are interested in helping, please [send Beth an email!](#)



Prayer Requests

If you have a prayer request, please [email it to the church office](#) and we will be sure to add it to the prayer list!



Bethany Children's Home Art Auction

We are kicking off the summer with our Bethany Student Art Show! Some of our youth recently created paintings with the theme "What does Bethany mean to you?" The results are incredibly powerful, creative and colorful. Now through July 9, they are auctioning off pieces of artwork created by Bethany youth. Visit their [website](#) or [Facebook](#) page for updates.



~ Apple Butter Festival Update ~

Dear Members and Friends of UCC East Goshen.

When we think of UCCEG and the Fall we have for over 15 years thought of APPLE BUTTER making. The peeling, stewing, open fire making, canning and selling of this brown delight for toast and cottage cheese, has become for many of us and our community a Fall event to put on our calendars!

It is with sadness that the council and financial committee have come to realize, with covid,-19, social distancing, and precautions for large crowds, we will not be able to hold our usual apple butter day in late September!

Beside the fun and community outreach we will be losing. WE also yearly raise 6,000-10,000 dollars for the ministries and outreach missions of the church. This will be a significant lose for our income in the fall months.

The financial/apple committee have been brain storming various ideas and opportunities which we might offer to our congregation to raise these lost funds.

One idea is: if any member or friend has a car in a shape for selling, which they might be willing to give to the church, receive a tax write off from the church, and then the church could sell f or auction for an amount. Another thought was if each member might think of one item/antique or worth a value of at least \$100 and donate to the church and then we would have a on line auction. Another option is to see if we each might be able to donate an amount which we might have spent on bake goods/ craft items/ apple butter purchases, and just this year donate that amount to the church in the name of apple butter.

I am sure there will be more ideas coming, but for now, whet your appetite on these and let Beth Saylor or Pastor Angelee know if you have any items from the above list!

Yes, we do have 2 cases left to sell, 7 dollars a jar, please call Todd Speece if you would like to purchase.

God's blessing on you,

Pastor Angelee



Sacred Conversations on Race

UCC East Goshen will set aside time over the summer to begin sacred conversations on race.

Beginning July 11, Roots & Roofs will look at Institutional Racism and White Supremacy. The United Church of Christ has been encouraging its congregations to take on the awkward, sometimes difficult but entirely essential task of engaging with each other on the subject of Race in America. In 2016, the denomination released a curriculum called "White Privilege, Let's Talk". Our congregation used the curriculum for a six-week adult study. The advance reading materials for July 11 are [HERE](#). We'll be revisiting portions of it for the first two weeks and then continuing on to:

July 25th: Racial history

August 1st: Children & Race

August 8th: Being an Ally

August 15th: Action steps to be an Ally

Watch your weekly e-mails, the Facebook pages: [UnitedChurchofChristEastGoshen](#) and [RootsandRoofs](#) for up-to-date information and links to reading material.

Why, "Sacred Conversations"? Our work is rooted in the universal, perfect love of God and the prophetic call to justice and mercy. We hope that in the community God has gathered here in West Chester, each of us can meet and share in mutual respect and love. It is no more or less than our call to build the kingdom of God on earth. As the General Minister and President of the UCC, John Dorhauer, says in the introduction to "White Privilege, Let's Talk", "... the work by whites to understand white privilege is more than the work of justice: it is the work of spiritual healing. ... It is far past time that we admit that and commit not just to the work of justice, but to the work of healing our own spiritual wounds and the wounds of our ancestors."

Conversations Continue: For any who prefer a stand-alone discussion, we'll also offer "Book Club" discussions on one topic at a time. We'll meet on Zoom for a session where the participants view a video on Race in America and take time to discuss it. The plan is to host early-evening meetings, but please feel free to share suggestions for a time to hold the sessions with the UCCEG office. As always, watch the weekly e-mails and Facebook pages for details.

ROOT AND ROOFS

Roots and Roofs is an interactive worship service that we have been able to continue via Zoom throughout the pandemic. This is a great opportunity to reflect, pray, listen, discuss, and share in our faith. We usually get to see a powerful video conversation starter. And always there are musical selections which enhance our emotional and spiritual connection to the theme.

We have selected the theme Institutional Racism for our worship series in July and August. We look forward to increasing our understanding of “white privilege”, the significant events in Black/American history, how racism affects our children, how systems of our society weave a neand how to become an ally on the journey toward “a more perfect union”. We look forward to having you [join us, every Saturday at 5:30 pm!](#)

(Roots & Roofs will NOT be meeting July 4th.)

Follow us on [Facebook.com/RootsandRoofs](https://www.facebook.com/RootsandRoofs)



Virtual Worship – Sundays @ 10 AM

The words to prayers and hymns will be displayed on the screen so everyone can join in while you watch worship. Invite your friends and family to join us online!

[Click here to join worship via FB Live.](#)

Newsletter Submissions

The UCCEG newsletter is published bi-monthly. Submissions are due by the 3rd Tuesday of the month prior to publication to office@ucceastgoshen.org.

Your Church Council

President - Linda Ardao
Vice President - Don Rising
Secretary - Leslie Siebert
Treasurer - Beth Saylor
Assistant Treasurer - *open*
Financial Secretary - Todd Speece
Building & Grounds - *open*
Christian Education - Dawn Lawhon
Church Growth - Al Benner-Smith
Congregational Life – Bonnie Jackson
Mission & Outreach - Lucy Barber
Worship & Music - Bunny Watts

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Michael Hatala, Director of Music Ministry

Jen Troutman, Office Administrator