

The Union News

a publication of
Union Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
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April 30, 2009

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May at Union Congregational Church



May 10, 2009, Happy Mother's Day to all mothers and those who have taken on the role of mother.

May 24, 2009 – we welcome back the Reverend Dr. Abiot Moyo to our 10 AM worship service (see article on page 6)



GUEST PREACHER



Children's Sunday will be on Pentecost – May 31, 2009 – come and see our faith expressed through the eyes of our children!



Daily Lectionary

May 2009

*These lectionary readings are from A Daily Lectionary-Scripture readings for Every Day based on the New Common Lectionary. *The readings listed for Sundays are from the UCC Desk Calendar and are not part of the daily lectionary cycle.*

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>New Testament</u>	<u>Epistle</u>
Fri	May 1	Dan 5:13-30	Mark 12:1-11	2 Tim 4:1-8
Sat	May 2	Dan 6:1-15	John 10:1-10	2 Tim 4:9-22
*Sun	May 3	Ps 23	John 10:11-18	Acts 4:5-12
Mon	May 4	Dan 6:16-28	John 10:22-30	1 John 1:1-4
Tues	May 5	Dan 12:1-13	John 10:31-38	1 John 1:5-10
Wed	May 6	Ezek 34:11-16	Matt 7:1-12	1 John 2:1-6
Thurs	May 7	Deut 30:15-20	Matt 7:13-21	1 John 2:7-11
Fri	May 8	Jer 14:14-18	Matt 7:22-27	1 John 2:12-17
Sat	May 9	Isa 40:9-11	Matt 7:28-8:4	1 John 2:18-23
*Sun	May 10	Ps 22:25-31	John 15:1-8	Acts 8:26-40
Mon	May 11	Song of Sol 2:1-7	Matt 8:5-17	1 John 2:24-29
Tues	May 12	Song of Sol 3:1-5	Matt 8:18-27	1 John 3:1-10
Wed	May 13	Song of Sol 5:1-8	Matt 8:28-34	1 John 3:11-18
Thurs	May 14	Song of Sol 5:9-16	Matt 9:1-8	1 John 3:19-24
Fri	May 15	Song of Sol 6:1-10	Matt 9:9-17	1 John 4:1-6
Sat	May 16	Song of Sol 8:1-7	Matt 9:18-26	1 John 4:7-12
*Sun	May 17	Ps 98	John 15:9-17	Acts 10:44-48
Mon	May 18	Isa 63:3-9	Luke 12:13-21	1 John 4:13-21
Tues	May 19	Isa 45:1-8	Matt 13:1-17	1 John 5:1-5
Wed	May 20	Ezek 1:1-14	Matt 13:18-23	Eph 1:1-10
Thurs	May 21	Acts 1:1-11	Luke 24:46-53 or Mark 16:9-16,19-20	Eph 1:15-23
Fri	May 22	Ezek 1:15-28a	Matt 22:41-46	1 John 5:6-12
Sat	May 23	Ezek 1:28b-3:3	Matt 28:11-20	1 John 5:13-21
*Sun	May 24	Ps 1	John 15:9-17	Acts 1:15-17,21-26
Mon	May 25	Ezek 3:4-17	Luke 10:1-17	2 John 1-13
Tues	May 26	Ezek 3:17-27	Luke 10:17-24	3 John 1-8
Wed	May 27	Ezek 4:1-17	Luke 10:25-37	3 John 9-15
Thurs	May 28	Ezek 6:1-14	Luke 10:38-42	Rom 8:1-11
Fri	May 29	Ezek 7:1-13	Luke 11:14-23	Rom 8:12-17
Sat	May 30	Ezek 7:14-27	John 14:21-29	Rom 8:18-25
*Sun	May 31	Ezek 37:1-14	John 15:26-27,16:4b-15	Rom 8:22-27

Provided by The Massachusetts Conference, United Church of Christ ...nurturing local church vitality and the covenant among our churches. Made possible by your contributions to Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support and Fellowship Dues.

Landscaping
Indoor & altar flowers
Coffee hour coordinators
Movie Night volunteers
Kids Club co-leaders
Greeting cards ministry
Audiovisual assistance
Visiting shut-ins
Nursery volunteering
Publicity
Choir
Music & dance
Meeting & greeting
Scripture readers
Growth committee
Cooking, baking
Sound system help
Restocking supplies
Parents groups
Maintenance & repairs
New worship planning
Website updating
Newsletter stories
Table & chair setup
Display case exhibits
Starting support groups
Child care
Photography
Electrical work
& other volunteer jobs of all kinds we can't even begin to imagine!

Life-giving church = getting involved in its life.

As we think about the stories of new life we've so dramatically shared in the events of this Easter season... as well as the examples of new life present all around us, with spring finally arriving ... one big question that continues to face any congregation like ours is, "how does one keep nurturing new life, year after year?" It's all too easy to just let nature take its course, and enjoy the sight of new flowers poking through the soil, and buds and blossoms emerging everywhere. But is that what God really wants us to do – take a passive role, a back seat to the activities and events all around us?

In order to assure that our church continues to be the meaningful, loving, beautiful, comfortable, and safe place it is today, we all need to play a part in its life and livelihood. It is no exaggeration to say that the commitment and involvement of every person who attends (no matter how many minutes or hours can be given) is important, noticed, and appreciated by all.

Keeping our activities, programs, and physical facilities functioning smoothly involves a mind-boggling number of jobs. The amount of time those jobs require varies greatly. Some are one-time efforts, and others are ongoing throughout the year. Some take a few minutes, and others might require several hours.



At different points in our lives, we all have different amounts of time and energy to spend outside of our immediate families and workplaces. Fortunately, whatever the amount of time one can give, there are jobs that can fit our particular interests and skills, and which we surely will enjoy.

**Why give of your time and energy to support the needs of the church?
Because...**

You will meet new people and become better friends with those you already know.

You will learn new skills and have the pleasure of teaching yours to others.

You will have an opportunity to utilize your creative energies, and be appreciated for them.

Your energy level will increase (unless you overextend yourself!)

You will have the personal satisfaction of keeping a great thing great, or making it greater.

You will be setting a valuable and loving example for the children in your life. *(continued on page 4)*

A song of new life

Through two thousand
years of changes,
Through these passing
centuries,
You have called Your
church to witness
To Christ's love that claims
and frees.
Each new generation hears
You,
Each must find a fresh new
way
To make known the life
You offer,
To the people in their day.
On this day, we pause and
wonder
What the future years will
bring,
Yet we know You clothe
each flower
And You make each
sparrow sing.
How much more will You
protect us
With Your guiding, caring
hand!
By your Spirit, lead us
boldly
In the future You have
planned.

—from “On This Day of
Celebration,” in *Gifts of
Love: New Hymns for
Today's Worship*, by
Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

(continued from page 3)

You will learn much more about the church, its workings, its community, and its history.

You will learn more about yourself.

You will get back far more than you give. This is the best kind of return, in today's economy.

If you don't help get these jobs accomplished, who will?

The prophet Kahlil Gibran once said, “Work is love made visible.”

So perhaps, as the nice weather returns once again to Maynard, we can all find ways to make some of this church's abundance of love visible to those around us, in different and new ways, both big and small.

The work doesn't even have to be too taxing – but it will help us to continue being a life-creating and life-nurturing place for all to enjoy, in years to come. All it takes is *getting involved*.

– Pastors Hannelore and Tom

“Youth”

Youth is not a time of life. It's a state of mind. It's a temper of the will, a quality of the imagination, a vigor of the emotions, a predominance of courage over timidity, the appetite for adventure over love of ease.

For no one grows old by merely living a number of years. People grow old by deserting their ideals. Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul. Worry, doubt, self-distrust, fear and despair — these are the long years that bow the head and turn the growing spirit back to dust.

You are as young as your self-confidence, as old as your doubt....as young as your faith, as old as your fear. And as long as you continue to receive messages of beauty, cheer, courage, grandeur, and power from the earth, from your fellow man, and from the infant, so long you are young.

—*Jack Thayer, with inspiration from Samuel Ullman & others*

You are needed!



Please take a moment to sign up for Sunday Café. (previously known as the “Coffee Hour”)

We *continue* to need more people to help with

this essential part of our fellowship time after worship. All you need to do is bring goodies to share, set up the area for coffee and juice (coffee, cream and the juice are provided), and clean up afterwards. If everyone just signed up once or twice a year, no one would be overburdened with this very important task. How about signing up with a church buddy? The sign up sheet is on the board outside the kitchen.

New Church Directory

The new church directory is available and may be found on the table opposite the display cabinet. You may pick yours up the next time you are at the church.

New exhibit needed for church display cabinet.

Just a reminder – the display cabinet on the second floor, near the staircase, will be changing soon. We need a new exhibit to replace the items currently there. If you have a collection you’d like to display, please speak with the pastors.

Group Meets Mondays in May



Rainbows of Hope

“Rainbows of Hope” group (new name, previously called Rainbows of Prayer) began on February 9th and is open to all interested in weekly get-together.

Looking for healing? Looking to de-stress? Join us on Monday nights at 6:30 in the library. Our

risen, resurrected Christ is a wounded Christ. He appeared to the disciples and showed them the wounds of His crucifixion. Referring, therefore, to the Christian life, one of the great spiritual writers of the twentieth century, Henri Nouwen, coined the phrase “the wounded healer.” On Monday nights we are getting together to talk about what it means to be wounded healers ourselves, helping each other find healing by sharing the woundedness we all know. Pastor Hannelore is leading this church group, open to all (members and visitors alike), designed to broaden our experiences and expressions of Christian devotion. We’d love to see you there.

Staff

Ministers: The Entire Congregation

Co-Pastors: Rev. Tom Nalesnik
& Rev. Hannelore Nalesnik
email: pastormaynarducc@verizon.net

Minister of Music: Roy Helander

Church Administrator: Ruth Carney
email: maynarducc@verizon.net
ruthcmaynarducc@verizon.net

Sexton: Nyomi Corriveau

Nursery: Laura Doucette

Sunday Worship Service at 10:00 AM, (nursery care provided)

Fellowship at 11:00 AM

**Church School during Worship
Building is handicapped accessible**

Websites

Union Cong: www.maynarducc.org

Mass Conference: www.macucc.org

United Church of Christ: www.ucc.org

Kids Klub



What is Kids Klub? It's a meeting of the children of the church (ages 5-10). Come on out and make friends and have fun –

on the first and third Sundays of the month 3:00-5:00 PM at the church. For more information, please speak to Pastor Hannelore.

Church Family Meetings

The Next **Church Family Meeting** is scheduled for **May 31, 2009** after worship. Plan to stay for refreshments, sharing with one another and to hear any updates. The following meeting is scheduled for **June 28, 2009**.

**Deadline for the next
Union News is**

**May 17, 2009
for Issue: May 28, 2009**

(This issue will contain the calendar and the volunteer schedules for June.)

Next Deadline

for newsletter: 6/14/09, Issue: 6/25/09

(This issue will contain the calendar and the volunteer schedule for July & August.)

A BIG Ministry

The **Balm In Gilead** Ministry was founded by the Rev. Dr. Abiot Moyo, former pastor at the United Methodist Church here in Maynard. It is a ministry aimed at helping primarily children in Zimbabwe, Africa who have lost either one or even both parents (often due to AIDS), widows trying desperately to feed their children, and the pastors who give so much of themselves to minister to these of God's children whom God calls them to serve.



The main goal of this BIG ministry is to fund education for these children in order to give them a foundation for a life that promises to lift them out of the devastating circumstances that make life so very difficult for them.

Union Congregational Church has been supporting this work of the Rev. Dr. Abiot Moyo since 2003 when, feeling called to support friend and fellow Christian Abiot Moyo, the congregation first raised funds to help orphans in Zimbabwe whose plight had come to Abiot's attention. Out of this initial support from this congregation and others in the Maynard area, the Rev. Dr. Abiot Moyo saw the vision of the BIG ministry coming together. Since 2003 the ministry has grown significantly and is supported by many churches and people of many denominations.

The time has come again for the Union Congregational Church to consider the ways in which we can continue to support this BIG ministry and help the children of Zimbabwe. This congregation has raised funds specifically for young girls in order to help them be able to attend school. Attending school keeps these young girls in a safe environment where they can develop into the people God has created them to be, and there have been blessed success stories.

The need of the young girls in Zimbabwe continues to grow and so the first four Sundays in the month of May we will be collecting offerings that will then be given to the Rev. Dr. Abiot Moyo to help in this BIG ministry. There will be specially marked envelopes in the Sunday bulletins and you may make contributions by check or in cash. Checks need to be made out to the Union Congregational Church with Zimbabwe written on the memo line at the bottom of the check. If it is a cash donation please write your name on the envelope so that credit can be given you.

On Sunday, May 24th, the Rev. Dr. Abiot Moyo will be preaching at our 10:00 service and we will have the opportunity to visit with him following the service and talk in greater depth about just how our contributions are helping these special children of God. Mark the date on your calendars!

If you get sick – Please Remember

Would you or a family member or a friend or a medical professional (nurse, etc.), please let Pastor Hannelore and/or Pastor Tom know what is happening? You can call the church office at anytime at 978-897-2522. If no one is in, please leave a message. We will keep any information you give us confidential unless you instruct us it is OK to share it. Thank you!

Thank you

I would like to thank all those who have kept me in their prayers, and for all the wonderful cards I have received.

Thank you all, and may God bless you.

Donna A

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To Our Church Family,  
Thank you once again for remembering us at Easter with the beautiful lilies. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and love.

Hannelore, Tom, Roy, Nyomi and Ruth

## From the Church Office



The Church Office will be closed the week of May 3<sup>rd</sup>. As always, you may leave a voicemail or email message for Ruth and she will get back to you when she returns on May 13<sup>th</sup>.

## Mommy, Daddy & Me group goes musical



### Mommy, Daddy & Me

Our **Mommy, Daddy & Me** group that has been scheduled to meet on Saturday mornings in the church nursery at 10:00 AM is getting a facelift. Beginning on Saturday, May 9, Janet B., a member of our congregation, is offering a 6-week series of music classes for parents and their children, ages 4 and under, in Fellowship Hall. Janet is an early childhood music & movement

specialist who completed a “Music Together” Advanced Training Class in 1997, and ran a “Music Together” class in Wakefield, MA. She later developed her own class, “Heartbeat Music & Movement,” which she facilitated in Sudbury and Hudson, MA.

This 6-week music program promises to be a fun and engaging time for young children. If you are interested, we are asking that you please register your child(ren) early by calling Janet at 978-897-5444, as this event will be open to the community, and class size is limited. A donation of \$30 is requested, plus \$5 per additional sibling, to help defray expenses.

### Church Leadership

Hannelore & Tom N, Co-Pastors

Robert M, Moderator & Chair of Stewardship Committee

Fred L, Treasurer

James M, Financial Secretary

Donna A, Clerk

Diana E, Chair of Deacons

Lynne H, Chair of Trustees

Lila C, Chair of Mission Outreach

Nanda L & Kathy H, Co-Superintendents of Sunday School

Kathi M, Chair of Christian Education

Phil B, Chair of Investments

Diana E & Marge M, Members at Large

Beth P, Chair of Altar & Usher Committees

Marge M, Prayer Chain Coordinator

## Prayer Celebrations & Concerns

Parishioners (and loved ones) in our prayers who have health issues:

Edith B.  
 Albert (Ole) C.  
 Anne G.  
 Jane J.  
 Jim O.  
 Anne R.  
 Nancy S.  
 David W.  
 Thelma W.

**Please keep in your prayers:**

All those now serving or about to serve in the US Armed Forces. All those affected by the conflicts in the Middle East.

Our new President and all government leaders. May we find an equitable peace for all.

Peace and understanding in the world and in our personal lives.

For those who have been affected by hurricanes, storms (rain & snow), cyclones, tidal waves, earthquakes, fires, floods, oppressive heat or cold and tornadoes.

For those who live in conditions so bad that we cannot comprehend.



In May

### Birthdays

| Day | Name              |
|-----|-------------------|
| 03  | Matthew H         |
| 04  | Robert M          |
| 04  | Kimberley A (Kim) |
| 05  | Herb M            |
| 08  | Kevin F           |
| 08  | Mia P             |
| 11  | Brian M           |
| 12  | Christopher C     |
| 16  | Rachel K          |
| 19  | Philip B (Phil)   |
| 23  | Christine B       |
| 25  | Albert C          |
| 25  | Ronald B          |
| 29  | Warren G          |

### Volunteer Schedule

May 3, 2009

**Flowers:** Marge M  
**Altar:** Lee T  
**Ushers:** Wil H, Beth P, Suzanne W & Fred W  
**Nursery:** Laura Doucette & volunteers

May 10, 2009

**Flowers:** Marge M  
**Altar:** Lee T  
**Ushers:** Phil B, Kristin C, Steve M & Robert M  
**Nursery:** Laura Doucette & volunteers

May 17, 2009

**Flowers:** Marge M  
**Altar:** Lee T  
**Ushers:** Ruth A, Raoul P, Charlie Y & George Y  
**Nursery:** Laura Doucette & volunteers

May 24, 2009

**Flowers:** Marge M  
**Altar:** Lee T  
**Ushers:** Wil H, Beth P, Suzanne W & Fred W  
**Nursery:** Laura Doucette & volunteers

May 31, 2009

**Flowers:** Marge M  
**Altar:** Lee T  
**Ushers:** Phil B, Kristin C, Steve M & Robert M  
**Nursery:** Laura Doucette & volunteers



### Thoughts for the Day

There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work and learning from failure.

– Colin Powell

Save the Earth, it's the only planet with chocolate – Bumper sticker

Life is not a problem to be solved, but a gift to be enjoyed. – Proverb

May your day be as full and happy as your heart. – unknown

When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left and could say, "I used everything you gave me."

– Erma Bombeck

Thank someone for something. Go out of your way to acknowledge the generosity of a person you know. – Alan Epstein

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.

– Jesus (John 20: 29b NRSV)

# Thanks

FOR YOUR EXAMPLE

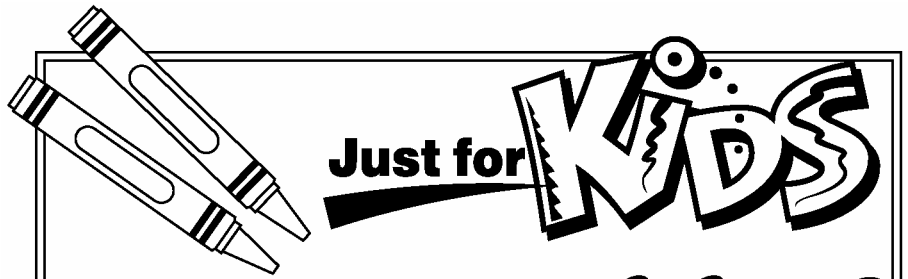
Mother's Day is a great opportunity to thank your mother, grandmother or any other woman who has been a wonderful example in your life. Make and give this craft to show how much you appreciate these special women.

### What you need:

- An empty, glass, wide-mouthed jar (no lid needed)
- Acrylic craft paints (several different spring colors)
- Votive candle (optional)
- Flowers (optional)
- Small candies (optional)

### What you do:

1. Make sure your glass jar is clean and dry.
2. Dip your pointer finger into one of the paint colors.
3. Using your finger as a stamp, make about five prints in a circle on the outside of your jar. These will be your flower petals. (Hint: Hold your jar by placing your hand inside it. Then you can turn the jar easily without messing up the wet paint.)
4. Dip your finger into another color and make a fingerprint in the center of your petals.
5. Make as many flowers as you want, using different fingers or your thumb to make different-sized petals.
6. Present this beautiful gift to a special woman this Mother's Day. There are many ways to use it:
  - Place a votive candle inside to make a candleholder.
  - Fill it with water and place flowers inside to make a vase.
  - Fill it with small candies to make a candy jar.



# A legacy of faith

You're blessed when you have a mother, a grandmother or any relative or friend who passes down a strong faith to you. In the Bible, Timothy was influenced by his grandmother and mother.

Complete 2 Timothy 1:5 (NIV) below by filling in the blanks with the correct vowel.

**VOWELS: 1 = a 2 = e 3 = i 4 = o 5 = u**

“ \_ h \_ v \_ b \_ \_ n r \_ m \_ nd \_ d \_ f  
 3 1 2 2 2 3 2 4  
 y \_ \_ r s \_ nc \_ r \_ f \_ \_ th, wh \_ ch  
 4 5 3 2 2 1 3 3  
 f \_ rst l \_ v \_ d \_ n y \_ \_ r gr \_ ndm \_ th \_ r  
 3 3 2 3 4 5 1 4 2  
 L \_ \_ s \_ nd \_ n y \_ \_ r m \_ th \_ r  
 4 3 1 3 4 5 4 2  
 \_ \_ n \_ c \_ \_ nd, \_ \_ m p \_ rs \_ \_ d \_ d,  
 2 5 3 2 1 3 1 2 5 1 2  
 n \_ w l \_ v \_ s \_ n y \_ \_ \_ ls \_ .”  
 4 3 2 3 4 5 1 4

2 TIMOTHY 1:5 (NIV)

Answer: “I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.”

## Church Calendar

### Sunday Morning

- †Choir Rehearsal – 9:15 AM
- †Worship – 10:00 AM
- †Sunday School – after the children's message during worship
- †Sunday Café/Fellowship – 11:00 AM

### Regular Meeting Schedule

- †CE – 3<sup>rd</sup> Tue. of the month, 6:00 PM
- †Choir Rehearsal – Thursdays, 7:00 PM
- †Church Management – (as needed)
- †Council – 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 7:00 PM
- †Deacons – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 7:00 PM
- †Caring & Sharing Support Group – (not currently scheduled)
- †Investments – meet as needed
- †Missions – meet as needed
- †Pastor Parish Relations Committee – (not currently scheduled)
- †Trustees – 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday, 7:00 PM

### Regular Building Users

- †Boy Scouts – Tuesdays, 6:00-9:00 PM
- †Community School – Weekdays, 7:30 AM-5:30 PM
- †Depression Anonymous – Wednesdays, 6:30 PM
- †Open Table – Mondays, 4-7:00 PM,
- †Senior Drop in Center – Tuesdays, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM



### Upcoming Dates

- † Mommy, Daddy & Me – All Saturdays in May, 10:00 AM
- † Rainbows of Hope Group – All Mondays in May, 6:30 PM
- † Kids Klub – May 3 & 17, 2009, 3:00 PM
- † Newsletter deadline – May 17, 2009
- † Guest Preacher, Rev. Dr. Abiot Moyo – May 24, 2009
- † No Church School – May 24, 2009
- † Pentecost/Children's Sunday – May 31, 2009
- † Church Family Meeting – May 31, 2009, after worship



Any changes or updates to the calendar will be announced in worship.

