

The Union News

a publication of
Union Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
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April 29, 2010

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We will have a yard sale on the front lawn (inside if it rains) on May 15th (9:00 AM to 2:00 PM)!

We will also be offering spaces (8 ft. by 6 ft) for anyone who would like to sell their items. There will be a reimbursement cost of \$25 for each space.

So, C'mon down and peruse attic treasures - you might find that one item you have been looking for - you might find that one item you just can't live without - you might find that one item that you need to take to the "Antiques Roadshow." There will also be a "Bake Table" for you to bring home some really yummy goodies. Just come on down, there is something for everyone! (see related article on page 4)

Daily Lectionary

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.

Daily Lectionary Scripture References May 2010 (Year C)

Sat., May 1 Psalm 148
Daniel 7:27 Revelation 11:16-19

Sun., May 2 *Fifth Sunday of Easter* Acts 11:1-18 Psalm 148 Revelation 21:1-6 John 13:31-35

Mon., May 3 Psalm 133 1
Samuel 20:1-23, 35-42 Acts 11:19-26

Tues., May 4 Psalm 133 2
Samuel 1:4-27 Acts 11:27-30

Wed., May 5 Psalm 133
Leviticus 19:9-18 Luke 10:25-28

Thurs., May 6 Psalm 67
Proverbs 2:1-5 Acts 15:36-41

Fri., May 7 Psalm 67
Proverbs 2:6-8 Acts 16:1-8

Sat., May 8 Psalm 67
Proverbs 2:9-15 Luke 19:1-10

Sun., May 9 *Sixth Sunday of Easter* Acts 16:9-15 Psalm 67 Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5 John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

Mon., May 10 Psalm 93 1
Chronicles 12:16-22
Revelation 21:5-14

Tues., May 11 Psalm 93 2
Chronicles 15:1-15
Revelation 21:15-22

Wed., May 12 Psalm 93 2
Chronicles 34:20-33 Luke 2:25-38

Thurs., May 13 *Ascension of the Lord* Acts 1:1-11 Psalm 47 or Psalm 93 Ephesians 1:15-23 Luke 24:44-53

Fri., May 14 Psalm 97
Exodus 33:12-17 Revelation 22:6-9

Sat., May 15 Psalm 97 Exodus 33:18-23 John 1:14-18

Sun., May 16 *Seventh Sunday of Easter* Acts 16:16-34 Psalm 97 Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21 John 17:20-26

Mon., May 17 Psalm 29
Exodus 40:16-38 Acts 16:35-40

Tues., May 18 Psalm 29 2
Chronicles 5:2-14 Acts 26:19-29

Wed., May 19 Psalm 29
Ezekiel 3:12-21 Luke 9:18-27

Thurs., May 20 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b Isaiah 32:11-17 Galatians 5:16-25

Fri., May 21 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b Isaiah 44:1-4
Galatians 6:7-10

Sat., May 22 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b 2 Kings 2:1-15a Luke 1:5-17

Sun., May 23 *Day of Pentecost* Acts 2:1-21 or Genesis 11:1-9 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b Romans 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21 John 14:8-17 [25-27]

Mon., May 24 Psalm 48 Joel 2:18-29 1 Corinthians 2:1-11

Tues., May 25 Psalm 48
Ezekiel 11:14-25 1 Corinthians 2:12-16

Wed., May 26 Psalm 48
Numbers 24:1-14 Luke 1:26-38

Thurs., May 27 Psalm 8
Proverbs 3:13-18 Ephesians 1:17-19

Fri., May 28 Psalm 8
Proverbs 3:19-26 Ephesians 4:1-6

Sat., May 29 Psalm 8
Proverbs 4:1-9 Luke 2:41-52

Sun., May 30 *Trinity Sunday* Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 Psalm 8 Romans 5:1-5 John 16:12-15

Mon., May 31 Psalm 124
Proverbs 7:1-4 Ephesians 4:7-16

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.

Dear God, thank you for the gift of life, which you have given each one of us to both cherish and to share. In times of abundance, it seems so easy to be happy and carefree. Generosity, caring about one another, and even connection with You is as natural as breathing or eating.

In difficult times, it isn't so simple. Our own concerns, worries, and fears get tangled up in our best intentions. Help us, God, to sort out our own human feelings from the desire You've given us to love, serve, and help each other.

O God, we recognize the many other gifts You've given us, both as individuals and as a congregation. You've given us children to raise, teach, and inspire; You've entrusted us with numbers of delicate, fragile souls to care for, keep safe, and strengthen; You've brought us members of the greater body of Christ experiencing all manner of suffering, setbacks, limitations, and challenges who desperately seek healing; and You've showered so many of us with different talents, interests, skills, insights, life experiences, and aptitudes that don't seem very big or important when considered by themselves, in isolation from others, yet turn out to be quite amazing, miraculous, life-giving, love-producing, and resurrecting when we share them and combine them with the gifts of those around us.

We confess, God, we think we've done some things right. But You also know, God, the perpetual struggles we face – the struggle between fear and love, the struggle between safe slavery and risky freedom, the struggle between anger and love, the struggle between foolishness and wisdom, the struggle between pride and humility, the struggle between disloyalty and faithfulness, the struggle between pain and love, the struggle between individualism and responsibility.

We commit ourselves to carry on, but sometimes we get tired, and impatient, and angry, and scared – so we give up and give in; we fail You and each other.

O God of both comfort and justice, forgive the suffering we have caused others, or which others have caused us; the comments or hasty words that, once spoken, cannot be recalled; the self-focus that ignores real hurts or concerns; and the ill will expressed by all parties in our misunderstandings and disagreements. Forgive us, too, for blaming You or others for decisions made that could have been avoided or done differently. Teach us how to understand You not as a source of rewards or punishments, good or evil, success or failure, but rather as “our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”

Dear God, help us all to know You better, to grow in our faith, and to discover new ways to put that faith to work in every part of our lives, both together and apart, both practical and spiritual, for your children near and far, for both friends and those alienated from us, for causes and concerns that both unite us and divide us, but above all, for the overarching vision of creating with You a new world where death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, and You will wipe every tear from all eyes as we move forward in peace, hope, love, and joy. In the name of your son Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

God, give us

*Grace to accept with
serenity the things
that cannot be
changed*

*Courage to change the
things that should be
changed*

*And the wisdom to
distinguish the one
from the other.*

Amen.

Reinhold Niebuhr, 1943

Last phase of the Driveway Project

Our three year commitment to repaying the driveway fund is almost at an end. Many thanks go to those who have been faithful in sending in money to cover this expense. If you check either of the visual boards located in the side narthex and in the back of the Sanctuary, you will see we are getting close. Hopefully, soon we can give ourselves a pat on the back for finishing this project. We have a little ways to go so, please help if you can to finish the driveway debt. Again, many thanks. This church is the best! The blue offering envelopes can be found at the church or you can contact Ruth in the office and she will mail you some.

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: Bruno Vachier

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



Save the new date for the yard sale



May 15th 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

We will have a yard sale on the front lawn on May 15th (inside if it rains)!

There will also be a Bake Table, so start looking thru your recipe files – you'll be getting a phone call!

We will also be offering spaces (8 ft. by 6 ft) for anyone who would like to sell their items. There will be a reimbursement cost of \$25 for each space. We will also need *many* helping hands setting up, selling and cleaning up after the event.

Contact person: Lynne H 978-897-2379

Upcoming Changes

There have been many, many meetings over the past several months trying to get closer to a balanced budget. This has been painful for all involved. Besides having to cut budget line items, there are quite a few staff changes taking place at the church beginning in June. This will affect the number of hours per week for staff members. Not all the details have been worked out yet and more information will be coming.

Deadline for the next *Union News* is

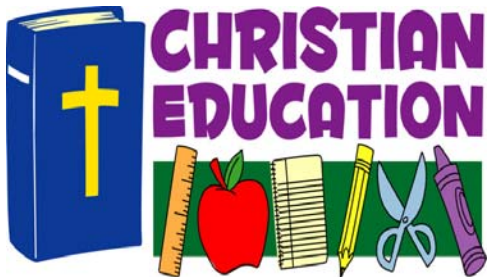
**May 16, 2010
for Issue: May 27, 2010**

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

Next Deadlines

for newsletter: 6/13/10, Issue: 6/24/10 (This issue will contain the calendar and the volunteer schedules for July and August.)

for newsletter: 8/15/10, Issue: 8/26/10 (This issue will contain the calendar and the volunteer schedules for September.)



Children’s Sunday will be on May 23rd in Fellowship Hall. The theme will be Happy Birthday!

The following is “News” from the kids in the grade 3-6 class to let the congregation know what they are doing every Sunday:

“Sunday school is very fun and educational. We play with play dough while we learn about different things depending on the week. We learn about Mosese, Joseph and the creation of the world. We also read the bible some weeks. Nanda is very nice and encourages us to try our best on the worksheets we do every week on a different person. Sunday school is very fun and I’m glad to come to Sunday school every week.”

Maeve.

“We learn lots of things in Sunday school. We also play games and do plays. Then we go to coffee hour. We learn how to read the bible. The teachers are really nice. It’s really fun!”

Nadia

“What do you know about Moses? At the time he was a baby and his mother didn’t want him to be taken form her by the king. So she put him in a basket and laid hi, along the reeds.

Coincidentally, the priness found Moses and had him raised as royalty. She also appointed his mother (though she didn’t know they were related) as his caretakers. This way Moses was reaised royalty, by his mom.”

Rachel

“Sunday school is do fun. We get to do a lot of fun stuff. We eat good food. We learn about all the people in the bible, mostly Jesus. We play with playdough and with friends. That’s what I like about Sunday school.”

Bridget



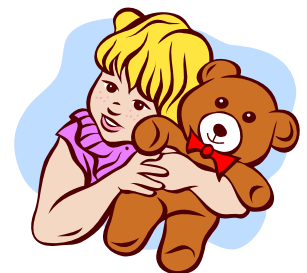
Do you have new or gently used stuffed animals that you just don’t know what to do with?

The Teen Sunday School Class continues to collect them through the month of May. Bring them to Church and place them in our collection box. They will be donated to organizations that collect new and

gently used stuffed animals to be redistributed to emergency organizations. These emergency organizations use the stuffed animals to ease the children’s nerves and calm their fears. These donations let the children know you care and give them hope in a world that at times seems so very cold. This project is part of the God & Church program they have been working on this year.

Guidelines for Stuffed Animal

- Size: Not larger than 21 inches
- Condition: Absolutely no stains or smells from pets, smoke, dust, etc. Please check the stuffed animals for tears, discoloration and worn, pilled or damaged clothing. Please do not wash the stuffed animals or attempt to repair them.
- Battery compartments: We can not accept stuffed animals that have battery compartments
- Noise: No stuffed animals that make noises – such as singing, talking, etc.
- Tags: Please do not remove the tags
- Must be soft and cuddly, not stiff



A second box will be available for collection of returnable bottles and cans. Money raised from these will be used for shipping costs required to send the animals to the emergency organizations.

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. We also have a pot-luck coffee time on the last Sunday of the month. You are invited to bring in something to share. We will fill the table with donations brought in on that morning.

Mission Outreach



We are happy to have the Reverend Dr. Abiot Moyo as our guest preacher on May 16th. He will be speaking on the “Balm in Gilead Ministry” in

Zimbabwe and the girls our church supports. He will also address the political climate in Zimbabwe. We are going to take collections on two Sundays, May 9th and May 16th. There will be special envelopes with a heart on them in the bulletins. If you write a check, make it out to the church and put Zimbabwe in the memo section.

Church Leadership

Hannelore & Tom N, Co-Pastors

Robert M, Moderator

& Chair of Stewardship Committee

Fred L, Treasurer

James M, Financial Secretary

Donna A, Clerk

Lila C, & Diana E, Co-Chairs of Deacons

Lynne H, Chair of Trustees

Lila C, Chair of Mission Outreach

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

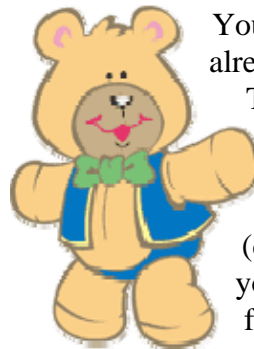
Kathy H, Chair of Christian Education

Robert M, Chair of Investments

Diana E & Marge M, Members at Large

Marge M, Prayer Chain Coordinator

You still can get a hug from Jesus



You may have seen them around church. You might already have one. Or you may be asking what are they?

They are “SONshine” bears! Ann-Marie B has been bringing a basket of different sized Teddy bears to church for anyone and everyone who needs a message of love from Jesus. The bears are free (donations to offset the cost are appreciated) to all. If you or if you know of someone who could use a hug, feel free to take one of these cheery little messengers. You can get one from Ann-Marie or one

from the basket in Ruth’s office. In any case, let’s spread the word around: “I’m a SONshine Bear. I give hugs from Jesus. He loves you so much.”

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!

Prayer Celebrations & Concerns

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

Edith B.
 Albert (Ole) C.
 Anne G.
 Jane J.
 Emily L.
 Anne R.
 Nancy S.
 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 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 and are still affected by hurricanes, storms (rain & snow), cyclones, tidal waves, earthquakes, fires, floods, mud slides, oppressive heat or cold and tornadoes.

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

The family and friends of Jim O'Loughlin who died on March 26, 2010.

The family and friends of David Westlake who died on April 9, 2010

Thank You

Dear Church Members,
 Thank you for your donation of hats, gloves & mittens from your mitten tree. We serve families in crisis in Stow. These items will be distributed next fall with winter coats, snow pants & boots.

Sincerely,
 Louise Peacock, President
 Warm Hearts of Stow

Birthdays in May

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 for May

May 2, 2010

Flowers: Marge M
Altar: Carol C
Nursery: Laura Doucette & volunteers

May 9, 2010

Flowers: Marge M
Altar: Carol C
Nursery: Laura Doucette & volunteers

May 16, 2010

Flowers: Marge M
Altar: Carol C
Nursery: Laura Doucette & volunteers

May 23, 2010

Flowers: Marge M
Altar: Carol C
Nursery: Laura Doucette & volunteers

May 30, 2010

Flowers: Marge M
Altar: Carol C
Nursery: Laura Doucette & volunteers



Thoughts for the Day

What we all have in common is the earth. Let us all protect her. – rec

My Mother wanted us to understand that the tragedies of your life one day have the potential to be comic stories the next. – Nora Ephron

Love cures people – both the ones who give it and the ones who receive it. – Dr. Karl Menninger

A synonym is a word you use when you can't spell the first word you thought of. – Burt Bacharach

Learn from the mistakes of others. You can't live long enough to make them all yourself. – unknown

Sometimes there is no answer – unknown

Listen – there's more to be heard than just the words. – unknown

Living becomes a daily celebration! – unknown

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. – Jesus (Matthew 5: 9 NRSV)

GOOD NEWS T-SHIRT


Jesus told his disciples — and us — to go into all the world and preach the good news. Wherever you go, this cool T-shirt will help spark conversations about your faith.

What you need:

- Newspaper
- Cardboard
- Plain white, cotton T-shirt
- Permanent markers
- Goggles (optional)
- Eye dropper
- Rubbing alcohol
- Clothes hanger

What you do:

1. Cover a table with newspaper. (Work outside or in a well-ventilated area.)
2. Place a piece of cardboard inside your T-shirt. (This keeps pen marks from going through to the other side.)
3. With permanent markers, draw a design of large circles, spirals, hearts, etc.
4. Wear goggles while dropping rubbing alcohol onto your designs with an eye dropper. As the alcohol permeates the permanent marker, the color will break up and spread in interesting ways.
5. Hang the shirt to dry.
6. When the shirt is dry, place cardboard inside it again. On the front, write “I have some good news to share with you.” You can also write a Bible verse.

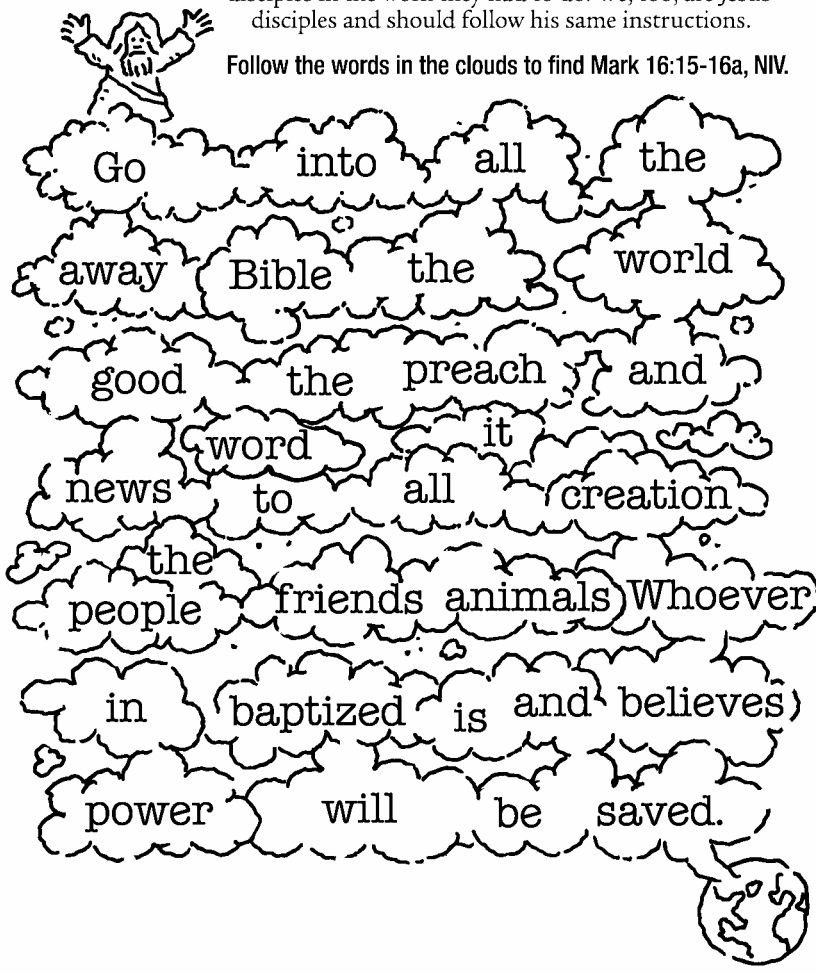


Just for KIDS

“I am with you always.”

Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he encouraged his disciples in the work they had to do. We, too, are Jesus’ disciples and should follow his same instructions.

Follow the words in the clouds to find Mark 16:15-16a, NIV.



Go into all the
away Bible the world
good the preach and
word it
news to all creation
the friends animals Whoever
in baptized is and believes
power will be saved.

Answer: “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.” (Mark 16:15-16a, NIV)

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 – 4th Tue. of the month, 7:00 PM
- †Choir Rehearsal – Thursdays, 7:00 PM
- †Church Management – (as needed)
- †Council – 3rd Tuesday, 7:00 PM
- †Deacons – 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 PM
- †Investments – meet as needed
- †Missions – meet as needed
- †Trustees – 3rd Sunday, 11:15 AM



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

- † **Mother's Day** – Sunday, May 9, 2010
- † **YARD SALE** – Saturday, May 15, 2010, 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
- † **Guest Preacher, Abiot Moyo** – Sunday, May 16, 2010
- † **Newsletter deadline** – May 16, 2010
- † **Children's Sunday / Pentecost** – Sunday, May 23, 2010, 10:00 AM
- † **Memorial Day** – May 31, 2010



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

