

The Union News

a publication of
Union Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
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May 27, 2010

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We're having a party!!!

Roy Helander, our Minister of Music, has decided to retire. We are throwing him a "Retirement Party" at noon on Sunday, June 13, 2010. We will gather after worship downstairs in Fellowship Hall to honor Roy and his ministry with us these past 47 years!

This will be a catered buffet for a cost of \$15.00 per adult and \$6.00 per child (up to 12 years of age). Tickets can be purchased from:
Lila C (978.897.6897)
or Lynne H (978.897.2379)
or Marion H (978.897.9156)
or Jim M (978.897.6078).

You may purchase your ticket(s) on Sundays or you may call any one of them. The last day to order tickets will be Sunday, June 6th. Tickets will not be available at the door. Please pass the word on to friends you think might like to come. There will only be 100 tickets available.

(May 20th through June 1st Marion H & Jim M will be away. During this time, tickets can still be purchased from Lynne H or Lila C.)

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 June 2010 (Year C)

Tues., June 1 Psalm 124
Proverbs 8:4-21 Ephesians
5:15-20

Wed., June 2 Psalm 124
Daniel 1:1-21 Luke 1:46b-55

Thurs., June 3 Psalm 146
Exodus 29:1-9 Acts 22:6-21

Fri., June 4 Psalm 146
Numbers 15:17-26 Acts 26:1-
11

Sat., June 5 Psalm 146
Joshua 9:1-27 Matthew 9:2-8

Sun., June 6 *10th Sunday –
Ordinary Time* 1 Kings 17:8-
16 [17-24] Psalm 146
Galatians 1:11-24 Luke 7:11-
17

Mon., June 7 Psalm 68:1-10,
19-20 Job 22:1-20 Galatians
2:1-10

Tues., June 8 Psalm 68:1-
10, 19-20 Job 24:9-25
Galatians 2:11-14

Wed., June 9 Psalm 68:1-10,
19-20 Job 31:16-23 Luke
8:40-56

Thurs., June 10 Psalm 5:1-8
1 Kings 20:1-22 James 4:1-7

Fri., June 11 Psalm 5:1-8 1
Kings 20:23-34 Romans
11:1-10

Sat., June 12 Psalm 5:1-8 1
Kings 20:35-43 Luke 5:17-26

Sun., June 13 *11th Sunday –
Ordinary Time* 1 Kings 21:1-
10 [11-14] 15-21a Psalm 5:1-
8 Galatians 2:15-21 Luke
7:36-8:3

Mon., June 14 Psalm 83
Genesis 31:17-35 Galatians
3:1-9

Tues., June 15 Psalm 83 2
Samuel 19:31-43 Galatians
3:10-14

Wed., June 16 Psalm 83
Malachi 3:5-12 Mark 2:1-12

Thurs., June 17 Psalm 42
and 43 Genesis 24:1-21
Romans 2:17-29

Fri., June 18 Psalm 42 and
43 Job 6:14-30 Galatians
3:15-22

Sat., June 19 Psalm 42 and
43 Proverbs 11:3-13 Matthew
9:27-34

Sun., June 20 *12th Sunday –
Ordinary Time* 1 Kings 19:1-4
[5-7] 8-15a Psalm 42 and 43
Galatians 3:23-29
Luke 8:26-39

Mon., June 21 Psalm 59 2
Kings 9:1-13 1 Corinthians
1:18-31

Tues., June 22 Psalm 59 2
Kings 9:14-26 Ephesians
2:11-22

Wed., June 23 Psalm 59 2
Kings 9:30-37 Luke 9:37-43a

Thurs., June 24 Psalm 77:1-
2, 11-20 1 Kings 22:29-40,
51-53 2 Corinthians 13:5-10

Fri., June 25 Psalm 77:1-2,
11-20 2 Kings 1:1-12
Galatians 4:8-20

Sat., June 26 Psalm 77:1-2,
11-20 2 Kings 1:13-18; 2:3-5
Luke 9:21-27

Sun., June 27 *13th Sunday –
Ordinary Time* 2 Kings 2:1-2,
6-14 Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20
Galatians 5:1, 13-25 Luke
9:51-62

Mon., June 28 Psalm 75 2
Kings 2:15-22 1 John 2:7-11

Tues., June 29 Psalm 75 2
Kings 3:4-20 Ephesians 5:6-
20

Wed., June 30 Psalm 75 2
Kings 4:1-7 Matthew 10:16-
25

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.

Inspiration from the desert

As spring turns into summer, those Bible passages about traveling through the desert become that much more real. From those who've been there, we can tell you that it's an odd, disarming, but surprising picture. At first glance, the landscape appears empty of life—so dry and still that nothing could survive there. The prickly, foreboding cactus plants seem to be saying, "Stay away! Approach at your own risk!" Yet, all around are little holes in the sand or soil, suggesting evidence of underground activity.

Of course, when visited at early dawn or in the evening, a time when the prairie dogs, roadrunners, mice, lizards, quail, rabbits, snakes, finches, and other desert inhabitants all come out, the scene changes radically. There is life, abundant life, and it's an incredible miracle that God has graced even this seemingly barren place with creatures and commotion that in their own strange way rival the goings-on of a town or city.

So it is with churches. For most of the year, Sunday School classes meet somewhere else in the building, while many congregation members are nearly unaware of their existence... until an event like Children's Sunday, when the hidden life emerges, and surprises us all with the God-given blessings and beauty that have gone unnoticed or unappreciated at other times. Or take a situation like a budget crisis, which galvanizes people and brings out all sorts of thoughts, feelings, opinions, ideas, and responses, both good and bad. The Spirit is moving there, too, in mysterious and unfathomable ways.

In that sense, "God is still speaking" is more than just a slogan – it's a perfect description of our lives of faith. Every single day, God is still revealing new things, taking us in shocking or surprising new directions, sending us on detours or leading us to new destinations that may alarm, dismay, offend, or scare us – but ultimately, somehow, somewhere, some way, giving us the manna in our own wilderness to not only survive, but to grow in our faith. That is, if we quiet our own voices in order to listen to God's speaking, and open our hearts and souls to the movement of the Spirit within and among us.

There's a wonderful new hymn we came across recently, which ironically appeared during a desert encounter (Tom's Arizona writers' meeting to launch an exciting new internet-based UCC "Faith Practices" curriculum program), that puts all this in perspective. Picture this, if you will: Jesus calling to each of us, in our own desert places, asking us:

"Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let My love be shown, will you let My name be known,
Will you let My life be grown in you and in me?"

"Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let Me answer prayer in you and you in Me?"

"Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
Through My sight and touch and sound in you and you in Me?"

--John L. Bell

As we can learn from this song, perhaps the greatest challenge for any of us is to follow Christ, even when there's the chance that we will "never be the same." Being able to quell our fear, to go where we don't know, to consider new possibilities, and reshape things around us, in the image of Christ, is the biggest and most important job all of us – pastors, leaders, and church members included – are called to do in these confusing, uncertain times.

Pastors Hannelore and Tom Nalesnik

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

A follow up on the yard sale

A special thank you to the dynamic dozen who put together and worked at the yard/bake sale on May 15th.



Also, a thank you to those who donated baked goods. We put a good dent in our attic treasures and the baked goods pretty much sold out.

We made a total of \$810. Not bad for one day's work. This church is awesome. We do a great job.

Again, thanks to all involved,
Lynne H

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.

Beginning June 1, 2010:

Pastor Tom will be half time through August 31st. Pastor Hannelore will no longer be our Co-Pastor

Roy has retired, but plans to volunteer to play the hymns for worship. Ruth will be in the office 10 hours instead of 20.

Bruno's hours have been cut and the church family needs to pick up the slack (see work day article on page 6).

Laura's position has been eliminated (see nursery article on page 6).

There are still details to be worked out around days and expectations and more information will be coming. Please keep our staff, congregation and church in your prayers.

Deadline for the next *Union News* is

**June 13, 2010
for Issue: June 24, 2010**

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

Next Deadlines

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

**You still can get a hug
from Jesus – we have
plenty of bears**

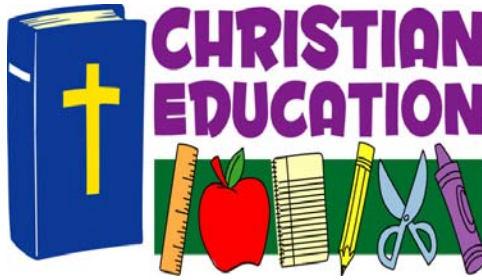


You may have seen them around church. You might already have one. Or you may be asking what are they? They are “SONshine” bears! Ann-Marie B has been bringing a

basket of different sized Teddy bears to church for anyone and everyone who needs a message of love from Jesus. The bears are free to all. Donations to offset the cost are appreciated. 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!



Children’s Sunday was on May 23rd in Fellowship Hall with the theme Happy Birthday! What a wonderful service with the children and youth of our church with the reflections of “God & Country” and “The Gifts of the Spirit.” Thank you to one and all who planned and participated in this service. Also, a special thank you to all teachers, volunteers and committee members for your commitment to our children.



The Teen Sunday School Class has been collecting new or gently used stuffed animals through the months of April and May to be donated 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. Your generosity exceeded our expectations. Thank you so much!

Nursery News

Nursery

Volunteers



The Nursery Volunteer list for the month of June:

June 6th: Shirley T
June 13th: Sue W
June 20th: Lynne H
June 27th: Carol C

Any one willing to volunteer for a Sunday nursery coverage, please speak to Lynne H or you can call her at home 978-897-2379. We would like a few more volunteers so that we can rotate Sundays and hopefully have a floater to fill in when needed.



To my Church Family,
Thank you so much for all your prayers, comfort, food, cards, kind words, calls, care, and love. I don't have the words to express my deep appreciation. It made Jim's passing easier to bear. I am so grateful to have you in my life.

Blessings, Fran O

Dear Church Family,
I would like to thank the members of our church family who prepared with love the very special luncheon that allowed all to celebrate David's life in yet another way.

Thank you, Thelma W

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

Church Monthly Work Day



Monthly Church WORK DAY

Our first workday will be **June 12th** from **9:30 AM to 12:00 PM**. Those who have already volunteered and anyone else interested in helping, please mark your calendar. We could also use some muscle power to help set up tables at 10:30 AM. We will especially work on the 12th to prepare the church for Roy's Luncheon on the 13th. The more people we have working, the more we can accomplish and we would be able to get the job done faster.

This once a month work day is a product of reducing the Sexton's hours in order to reach our annual budget goal. Each month, we will choose either a Friday or Saturday morning to do a cleaning project to help keep our beautiful church clean. Thanks – see you on the morning of the 12th.

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 Robert Schurman who died on May 4, 2010.



Birthdays in June

Day	Name
01	Rachel W
03	Marion H
03	William C
04	Lynne H
04	Michael H
05	Amanda S
05	Zoe S
13	Thomas N (Tom)
14	Ruth C
23	Mary Ann H
25	David B
28	Nathan C
29	Kathleen M
29	Dorinda O
30	Paul H
30	G. Charles Y (Charlie)
30	Suzanne W

Volunteer Schedule for June

June 6, 2010

Flowers: Lynne H
Altar: Nancy Y
Nursery: Shirley T

June 13, 2010

Flowers: Lynne H
Altar: Nancy Y
Nursery: Sue W

June 20, 2010

Flowers: Lynne H
Altar: Nancy Y
Nursery: Lynne H

June 27, 2010

Flowers: Lynne H
Altar: Nancy Y
Nursery: Carol C



Thoughts for the Day

Within every good-bye is a new hello
 – unknown

You can't prevent birds of sorrow from flying over your head, but you can prevent them from building nests in your hair.
 – Chinese Proverb

Love doesn't make the world go round. Love is what makes the ride worthwhile.
 – F. P. Jones

Choose a job you love and you will never have to work a day in your life.
 – Confucius

When is doubt, be happy. You can always change your mind. – unknown

I am not confused. I am just well mixed.
 – Robert Frost

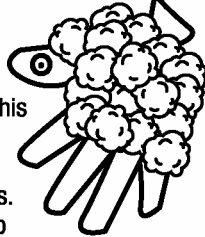
Love is giving one another space to be all that they are and all that they are not.
 – unknown

Outline realistic goals: for an hour, a day, a project, a career. – unknown

Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks, receives; and everyone who searches, finds; and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.
 – Jesus (Matthew 7: 7-8 NRSV)

Lamb Mission Bank

God can do great things with our gifts. This craft reminds us that every little coin counts. When your lamb is full, empty out the coins and give them to a charity or church mission program.



What you need:

- Knit glove (black or white)
- 1-foot-long piece of thin ribbon, any color
- Stapler
- Craft glue or hot glue gun
- Fiberfill or cotton balls
- 2 googly eyes

What you do:

1. Staple one end of the ribbon to the inside of each side of the glove's opening to make a hanger.
2. For the lamb's body, cover the palm and half of the thumb with glue. Stick the fiberfill or cotton balls onto the glue.
3. Glue a googly eye to each side of the mitten's thumb. (The other fingers will be the legs.)
4. Hang the lamb where you'll see it often. Whenever you have extra change, drop it into your lamb bag.

Give to those in need

John the Baptist spoke to a crowd, telling them they should be fruitful. When the crowd asked how they could be fruitful, John the Baptist responded with some specific ideas.

Unscramble John the Baptist's reply from Luke 3:11 (NIV), and write the words in the blanks below.

★ **WORD BANK** ★

with food him who should with man share do the should
 two tunics has the who none and one the same has

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Answer: "The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same." (Luke 3:11, NIV)

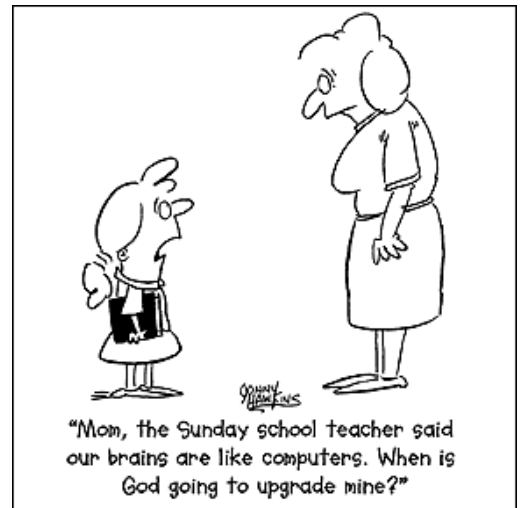
Church Calendar

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



PARTY



Upcoming Dates

- † Memorial Day – May 31, 2010
- † Church Work Day – June 12, 2010, 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM
- † Roy's Retirement Party – June 13, 2010 after worship
- † Newsletter deadline – June 13, 2010
- † Flag Day – June 14, 2010
- † Father's Day – Sunday, June 20, 2010



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

