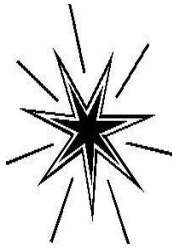


Bainbridge Beam

Bainbridge Community
United Church of Christ
17751 Chillicothe Road
Chagrin Falls, OH 44023



Forwarding Correction Requested

We Are Thankful For

**Dated Material
Do Not Delay**



JANUARY 2012

**Serving You At
Bainbridge Community Church**

Shaun Drefahl, Pastor
Julie Hoffman, Organist
Barbara Hincke, Secretary

Central Planning Board
Brenda Barenwald, Moderator
Ellen Klaiber, Vice Moderator
Ethelann Duncan, Secretary
Virginia Johnson, Treasurer

Church Website:
www.bainbridgecommunityucc.org

Church E-mail:
bainbridgecommunity@gmail.com

Church Office Hours
Monday through Thursday, 9am-2pm
Phone: 440-543-5117

Bainbridge Beam

The Newsletter of the Bainbridge Community United Church of Christ

January 2012

From your Pastor

A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone at Bainbridge Community UCC!

I cannot believe that as this newsletter goes out Christmas 2011 has already come and I am finishing up my first month here in Ohio. It has been a hectic yet wonderful time. As I continue to get settled, learn more about your history, and begin to participate in the life of this church it continues to be a very comfortable place for me. I am very happy to be here.

So now we begin 2012. The week between Christmas and New Year's Day has always been fascinating for me. We transition so quickly from celebrating how incredibly and abundantly God loves us just as we are to immediately making promises to change all of those things about ourselves we don't like. Don't get me wrong, it is great to be ever learning, to be focused on self-improvement, and seeking ways we can live more aligned with our values and our faith. I just hope that this is a time to rejoice about the new things God is doing in our lives and not a time of negativity.

In addition, the start of *this* new year is an exciting time for BCUCC. This is a time to renew our focus. This is a time look with fresh eyes at what our church is and what our church is capable of becoming. This is a time for us to come together to imagine new ways of bringing God's love and abundant blessing to all people. I'm excited to be present at this time in the BCUCC story. I hope all of you are too. Together we're listening for God's still speaking voice leading us in the direction God wants for this church.

In keeping with that thought, please continue to pay attention for chances in the coming months to support our Youth, the church missions, and other local church programs and events. I know BCUCC to be filled with incredibly caring and giving people. There are a lot of opportunities for you contribute coming up if you are able. In addition, if you have a particular skill or talent you would like to share in God's service please let me know and I'll see if there is somewhere you can do just that. I'm always happy to learn about the incredible gifts people are blessed with and I'm even happier to help people find ways they can use those gifts serve God and help others!

Finally, don't be surprised to hear from me! As I mentioned in the last bulletin, I will begin reaching out to schedule visits with everyone in the new year. I'm happy to visit folks in their homes, meet in my office, or even meet at a different location altogether. What's important to me is that I would really like to learn more about your story, your concerns, your connection to BCUCC and what it is about BCUCC that makes it your spiritual home. I'll also be happy to answer your questions, whether they're about my thoughts on BCUCC or about my own story. I'm really just excited to start building relationships with all of the BCUCC folks.

Thanks again to everyone for being so patient, caring, and welcoming as I begin my time here.

God's peace and love be with you,



Pastor Shaun

Save the Date!

January 19th there is going to be a dinner sponsored by the Chagrin Valley Council of Churches at the Chagrin Falls Park Community Center. The event is part of a week of prayer for Christian unity being observed January 18th-25th. More details to come in bulletins and announcements.

Bon Voyage

Bon Voyage to the Allard family as they will be embarking on a cruise Christmas Day. We wish them safe travels, fun and relaxation.

BOOK CLUB

When the holidays are over, if you haven't as yet read our current book selection, "I Still Dream About You " by Fannie Flagg, please do. Discussion sometime in January, soon to be announced. See if you can guess my favorite character – and who would ever guess that a book about an attempted suicide could be so funny? Ellie Baldwin

Help Wanted

The Mission Committee would like some additional helping hands - if interested please speak with Kathy Meier.

The Beam is looking for an Editor. If you are interested in working on the Beam, please speak with Brenda Barenwald or Karen Dunasky. Thank you.

WomenSafe Resale Shoppe

This church has supported WomenSafe in donations of money, gifts and toiletries. There is another way we can assist them in their efforts by shopping at their new resale store in the Drug Mart Plaza in Chesterland. The address is 12061 Chillicothe Rd.

The community has donated various items that the shelter cannot take in, such as furniture and appliances. Items are also being donated directly to the store. People working at the store are donating their time. All monies made go directly back to WomenSafe. All donations to the Resale Shoppe are tax-deductible. Help out a great group and shop at the Resale Shoppe in Chesterland.

The Growth Committee

is in need of a supporting cast to periodically update our outdoor sign. The content and updates would be provided. A great family activity. If interested please speak with Brenda Barenwald.

Goodsearch Search Engine

We received a check for \$107.70 from GoodSearch for the searching we've done this year.

For those of you not familiar with GoodSearch, it's a search engine powered by Yahoo who donates one penny to your favorite charity for each search you do. We've been listed as one of their charities for the last four years, and each year we increase our number of searches. They now have three ways to earn money for your cause:

1. GoodSearch. If you go into www.goodsearch.com , you'll see a picture in the middle of the screen where you can enter your charity. Just type in Bainbridge Community and you will get to us. They will ask you to register, which helps us see how many supporters we have and allows you to track our earnings. You can also download a toolbar which makes it very easy to type in your searches. You don't have to register, however, in order to search.
2. GoodShop. Goodshop lists thousands of online stores who will donate from 1.5-5% of your purchases to your cause. Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Target, Walmart and Verizon are only a very few. If you have the GoodSearch toolbar on your computer, it will notify you if you go into a participating site. If you shop online anyway, this is a very easy way to donate to the church. Plus there are many coupons available for each of the stores listed.
3. GoodDining. This is a new feature. They list participating restaurants in your area. You register and whenever you dine in these restaurants, up to 6% of your bill will go to your charity.

If we have 30 people searching and each do 2 searches a day, they would send us \$216

If we have 10 people shopping and each spend \$60 only two times a year, they will send us \$50

If we have 10 people who go out to dinner 3 times a year and spend \$40, they will send us \$50

(I've tried comparing Yahoo and Google searches and found them to be pretty much the same—except Yahoo sends us money!)



ANYONE READY TO KNIT, CROCHET, OR DO ANY NEEDLEWORK????

In January, we will start getting together at noon to 2:00pm and work on yarn projects, or any needlework you have in your work basket. Tentatively, we will

meet every Monday, starting January 9. Bring whatever you are working on, or if you would like to learn to knit or crochet, just come. We will share patterns and ideas, help each other and have some great conversation. Eventually, we can work on projects for Geauga Hospital and the VA Hospital. Any questions call Kathy Meier [330-995-9781](tel:330-995-9781)



Thank You! Church Helpers

- Worship Leader:** Lynn Kramer
- Ushers:** Jeff Clawson, Irene Hein, Lynn Charney, Ann Sekerak, Virginia Johnson, Erik & Brenda Barenwald, Andy Gall
- Greeters:** Bill & Shirley Takacs, Patty Willson & Greg Marous
- Coffee Hosts:** Rick & Thelma Payne, Anneliese Long, Dorothy Polaniec, Missy & Jeannie Shelton, Vivian DeRolf & Kayla Rumford
- Flowers:** Barbara Phan & Poinsettia Remembrances
- Nursery:** Brittney Allard, Ellen Klaiber, Kayla Rumford
- Communion Ushers:** Phil & Ellen Klaiber
- Teachers:** Lisa Ruzga, Kayla Rumford
- Advent Candle Lighting:** Jenna Ruzga, Virginia Johnson, Jim Kuyon, the Kramer Family, our confirmands: Isabel Held, Leander Held, Jimmy Kramer; the Search Committee: Jeff Clawson, Nancy Hammel, Ellen Klaiber, Nancy Lee, Sarah Krejci Popovic, Shirley Takacs, Reed Walters

Thank you

Thanks to all for their thoughts and prayers, cards and visits.
Anneliese Long

UNICEF Thanks You!!

Thanks to all the children who collected change for UNICEF at Halloween time!! BCUCC children were able to collect \$29.02 for this worthwhile charity this year! Thanks & Praise to those who collected & those who donated!

And Thanks to

Thank You! Thank You!

Our Church would like to thank our Ladies Auxiliary for paying to have the foyer and pastor's office carpets professionally cleaned. What a wonderful present from this group. Did you know that the Ladies Auxiliary not only pledge \$500 each year to our Church, but also support it with many paid for services and mission donations? Thank you ladies for all you do for us.

A Big Thank You to Lisa Ruzga

For once again chairing our very popular Cookie Walk. Many people—bakers, workers, Youth Group—helped to make this event such a success. Lisa even brought in her sisters and niece, who baked and assisted. Thank you all for making this such a financial benefit to our church.

Happy Birthday January

1	Rick Payne	13	Vivian DeRolf
2	Andy Gall		Kimberly Blake
3	Jim Kramer	14	Mary Wideman
5	Jenna Ruzga	15	Chet E. Ramey
7	Nathaniel Patterson	20	Kathy Fudella
	Matthew Keiper	21	Bill Takacs
9	David Fakadej	23	Muriel Lampert
11	Lorena Blake	25	Robert Hammel

Happy Anniversary January

7 Carolyn and Jeff Clawson



**February
BEAM
Deadline**

**Thursday
February 19th**

Epiphany

In western Christian tradition, January 6th is celebrated as Epiphany.

Epiphany is the climax of the Advent/Christmas Season and the Twelve Days of Christmas, which are usually counted from the evening of December 25th until the morning of January 6th, which is the Twelfth Day. In following this older custom of counting the days beginning at sundown, the evening of January 5th is the Twelfth Night. This is an occasion for feasting in some cultures, including the baking of a special King's Cake as part of the festivities of Epiphany (a King's Cake is part of the observance of Mardi Gras in French Catholic culture of the Southern USA).

In traditional Christian churches Christmas, as well as Easter, is celebrated as a period of time, a season of the church year, rather than just a day. The Season of the Church Year associated with Christmas actually begins with the first Sunday of Advent, four Sundays before Christmas Day. Advent is marked by expectation and anticipation in preparing to celebrate the coming of Jesus. Christmas begins with Christmas Day December 25th and lasts for Twelve Days until Epiphany, January 6th, which looks ahead to the mission of the church to the world in light of the Nativity. The one or two Sundays between Christmas Day and Epiphany are sometimes called Christmastide.

For many Protestant church traditions, the season of Epiphany extends from January 6th until Ash Wednesday, which begins the season of Lent leading to Easter. Depending on the timing of Easter, this longer period of Epiphany includes from four to nine Sundays. In some western traditions, the last Sunday of Epiphany is celebrated as Transfiguration Sunday.

The term epiphany means "to show" or "to make known" or even "to reveal." In Western churches, it remembers the coming of the wise men bringing gifts to visit the Christ child, who by so doing "reveal" Jesus to the world as Lord and King. In some Central and South American countries influenced by Catholic tradition, Three Kings' Day, or the night before, is the time for opening Christmas presents. In some eastern churches, Epiphany or the Theophany commemorates Jesus' baptism, with the visit of the Magi linked to Christmas. In some churches the day is celebrated as Christmas, with Epiphany/Theophany occurring on January 19th.

Around January 6th, the symbol +C+B+M+ with two numbers before and two numbers after (for example, 20+C+B+M+12) is sometimes seen written in chalk above the doorway of Christian homes. The letters are the initials of the traditional names of the Three Magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. These letters also abbreviate the Latin phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The beginning and ending numbers are the year, 2012 in the example above. The crosses represent Christ.

Marking the lintels of doorways is an old European practice that originally had overtones of magic (protection of the house). However, the symbols are now used throughout the world and usually represent a traditional Epiphany prayer and blessing.

