

Bainbridge Beam

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



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Bainbridge Community Church**

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Julie Hoffman, Organist
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Kathy Ramey, Beam Editor

Central Planning Board

Patty Willson, Moderator
Ellen Klaiber, Vice Moderator
Ethelann Duncan, Secretary
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www.bainbridgecommunityucc.org

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Church Office Hours

Bainbridge Beam

The Newsletter of the Bainbridge Community United Church of Christ March 2010

From your acting Pastor

Dear friends and church family at BCUCC,

During the month of March, we travel deeper into the Lenten season. Our journeys began on Ash Wednesday with the imposition of ashes and the call to "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return." This is an apt way to start on the path that ends at the cross with the crucifixion. And while death is a part of this journey, of all our life journeys in fact, we know and trust that it is not the ultimate end. The end is the *empty* tomb, the resurrection, new life and new hope.

In order to fully appreciate the blessings and joys of Easter, however, we are encouraged to follow Lenten disciplines, to truly participate in this season. For it is only by taking the time to grow closer to God that we can fully experience the glory of the Resurrection.

In our worship services at Bainbridge Community UCC, we will mark this season of Lent in a number of ways. On the first Sunday of Lent, the children will "collect the Alleluias" from the congregation. This ritual was shared with me by my friend, teacher, and fellow UCC minister Rev. Mark Suriano. We will make an effort to avoid the word "Alleluia" during Lent, in order that we may truly appreciate its reappearance on Easter Sunday. Also during worship, instead of an invocation, we will be joining in a prayer of Confession. And our "Gloria Patri" will commemorate the forty days of Jesus' time in the desert.

In addition, the members of the Chagrin Valley Council of Churches have joined to witness to the wider community that we are in the season of Lent. You will notice that the various churches display three wooden crosses on their lawns, with purple cloth during Lent, black on Good Friday, and white on Easter Sunday. Also, on Good Friday, the CVCC sponsors a "Stations of the Cross" walk through Chagrin Falls. Each church is invited to read a scripture and reflection at one or two of the fourteen stations along the way. This event begins at noon. If you are interested in participating, let me know.

There are two other programs sponsored by this council this year. One is the Lenten Soup suppers. The schedule and themes are as follows:


- Feb 24 – Holy Angels – "What Gives You Faith?"
- Mar 03 – Bainbridge Community UCC – "Can Faith Wipe Out Fear?"
- Mar 10 – Auburn Community Church – "Who is God?"
- Mar 17 – Lord of Life Lutheran Church – "What's God Got to Do with Evil?"
- Mar 24 – Valley Presbyterian – "How Do We Right the Wrong?"

The second is that we are invited to take part in a new program called "Mindful Mondays", which not only raises awareness of the growing problem of hunger in this area, but also offers a way to contribute to area food pantries. On Mondays, participating restaurants in Chagrin Falls and Bainbridge will donate ten percent of a patron's check to hunger centers. Watch for publicity about this on our bulletin boards, in local restaurants, or go to the website: www.mindfulmondays.org.

Lastly, here at Bainbridge during the last week of Lent, Holy Week, we will be having our annual Maundy Thursday meal together, and then a special Seder meal.

I pray that this Lenten season will be a holy and blessed journey for you. May you grow closer to God, deepen your prayer life, and create compassionate and strong bonds with neighbor. May it prepare your heart to receive all the joys of Easter Sunday!

Yours in Christ,


Pastor Susi

Worship Committee

The season of Lent has begun and we invite you to mark your calendars for the upcoming Sundays:

- March 7th Communion
- March 14th A Cantata Sunday, with a combined choir from Bainbridge and Solon Community Churches and an orchestra
- March 21st Special music with Liturgical Dance
- March 28th Palm/Passion Sunday

We are also planning for Maundy Thursday, April 1st. We will begin the evening with a stew dinner at 6 p.m., followed by a service at Bainbridge Community U.C.C. Members and friends who wish to take part in the dinner will find the recipe for the stew below. There will also be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for other items.

Maundy Thursday Stew

- 1 lg. slice round steak cubed
- 4 or more potatoes, cubed
- 3 or 4 carrots cubed
- 1 lg. onion chopped
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 can tomato soup
- 2 cans water (more or less)
- 1 bay leaf

Put everything in a casserole dish with lid, cover and bake at 350^o for 2 1/2 to 3 hours.

Bring your casseroles of stew to church and all will be poured into a roaster and mixed. We then partake of a common pot meal.

The Worship Committee invites you to take part in our time together Sunday mornings. If you are interested in being an usher or worship leader, please speak with Sarah Popovic. We would love to include more members in our worship time.

Interested in signing up to share altar flower arrangements in our services? Please see the flower chart on the bulletin board at church to reserve a Sunday. It is a wonderful way to add more beauty to the services!

Sara Popovic, chairman

Easter Flowers

The Worship Committee is again offering the chance to buy Easter flowers to beautify our sanctuary. The choice will be lilies or daffodils in six-inch pots with gold foil, and the price is \$7.50 each. The deadline for placing orders is Sunday, March 21st, and payment must accompany the order. Please include your memorial message on the enclosed order form and put it in the offering plate, the secretary's mailbox, or mail it to the church: 17751 Chilli-cothe Rd., Chagrin Falls, OH 44023.

Lenten Soup Suppers

On the five Wednesdays during Lent, the Chagrin Valley Council of Churches will once again hold its traditional soup suppers. The meal will begin at 6:00pm, followed by a short video from the "Questions of Faith" series. There will be a time of discussion and the evening will end at 8:00pm. A complete list of the location and theme for each evening can be found in Pastor Susie's article.

"Out of the Shadows" Cantata

The choirs of Bainbridge Community UCC and Solon Community UCC will again join together to present a Lenten cantata accompanied by a small chamber orchestra. "Out of the Shadows" will be performed at Bainbridge at 10:30am during worship on March 14th and at Solon at 10:30am on March 21st.

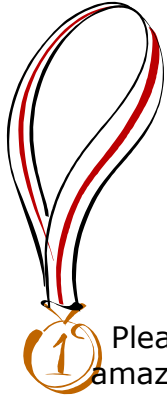
The music follows the events of Holy Week and culminates in the joyous celebration of Easter. This piece offers a wonderful way to enrich our Lenten experience and a perfect opportunity to invite an un-churched friend to church.



We Are Strong, Alive and Moving Ahead!

What an incredible family of faith Bainbridge Community UCC is. At our congregational meeting in January we approved a balanced budget for 2010. Thank you all. It was a wonderful show of faith and a way to thank God for all that God has done, is doing and will do for us. Many things are planned for 2010 and we are looking forward to an exciting year.

The following fundraisers for 2010 have been confirmed:



- | | |
|--------------|--|
| March 13 | Craft show chaired by Julia Newton |
| March | Malley's Easter Candy Sale chaired by Sue Johnson |
| May 21, 22 | Rummage Sale chaired by Shirley Page and Sue Johnson |
| August 21 | Trash and Treasure chaired by Patty Willson |
| September 25 | Auction chaired by Patty Willson |
| October 16 | Craft show chaired by Julia Newton |
| December 11 | Christmas Cookie Walk chaired by Lisa Ruzga |

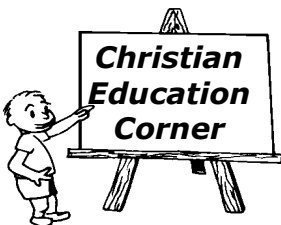
Please note: each fundraiser has a committed chairman. Our congregation is amazing. You say, "Yes", when asked to do something. You offer your help even before being approached. You come up with projects yourselves and shepherd them to completion. You offer your time, your talents, your treasures. We are triply blessed by all of you. You all deserve a gold medal! Thank you

Hop Into Spring V

On Saturday, March 13th, we will have our 5th annual Spring craft show. We have several new and different crafters coming. Our tables are almost sold out. We will be asking for your help in donating to our kitchen luncheon needs. We will need pies for desserts. The bake sale will need your bakery to make it a success. Any crafts could be used on our church table. Please price it and give it to Eileen Dickerson. Last but not least, bring a friend and come to the show. You will find some unusual items for sale. Thank you all for your help and support in our fundraiser.

Happy Spring

Julia Newton, chairman



Our Confirmation Class is doing something special for us. The Lenten Soup Supper and program which our church will host for the community on March 3rd will have two added soups prepared by our confirmands. These, we're sure, will be flavorful additions to the delicious soups made by some of the ladies of our church. Thank you confirmands and Pastor Susi ahead of time for your efforts in this endeavor.

We've been told that we will be hearing youthful voices in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday morning. For those wishing to sing with the Bainbridge Youth Choir, the practice schedule is listed on the following page. Thanks once again to Sarah Popovic and Lori Boyer for making this happen.

The Christian Education Committee is in the process of planning an informative discussion group. More on the time of this in emails and the church bulletin.

A special "thank you" to those who give of their time to plan and teach the children in Church School. Also, a "thank you" to the gals who have been our Nursery attendants. We appreciate your efforts so much.

May your journey through Lent be meaningful to you.

Sandy Allard/Karen Dunasky
Co-chairmen of Christian Education



Bainbridge Youth Choir

Rehearsals
March Sundays after church
14th
21st
28th
Performance
Easter, April 4th
9:30am rehearsal
10:30am performance

Book Club

Our next Book Club selection will be Have a Little Faith by Mitch Albom. He wrote Tuesdays With Morrie, and The Five People You Meet in Heaven. This is a non-fiction book, and an inspiration to read during Lent. We will discuss it sometime in April. We are considering a different format for the Book Club. Would it be more interesting if we went out to lunch, perhaps on a Saturday or on a specific Sunday after church? Should we make it a regular date each month, like always on the third Sunday, or does that give people enough time to get the book and read it? Let me know your thoughts. Ellie Baldwin

Long Range Planning

We are almost finished with our kitchen renovation. If you haven't seen it yet, the floor, refinished cabinets and counter tops are in place. We are having to wash the contents of all the drawers and cupboards due to the sawdust and overdue cleaning, so all the dishes will soon be clean and ready to be used. We also have been given a convection oven so we will be able to cook the meat for our dinners at our church. Our thanks to Gloria and Dennis Martin. There are some small items yet to be finished, but we give a big thank you to all for your donations that made it possible. If you miss the green tile that was there for over 50 years, don't worry, it's still there, you just can't see it.

Julia Newton & the
Long Range Planning committee



Mission Moment

February 28th is CUE Sunday. CUE stands for Chicago United Eden Seminaries of the UCC. Our gifts last year amounted to \$534.25. We received a lovely Thank You letter for making theological education a vital ministry of our congregation. If that date, February 28th, isn't possible to keep, it will be an ongoing mission during the next several months, also checks marked CUE may be mailed to our church office.

March 28th will be our usual One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Did you ever have such a wonderful assortment of people in need?

Our committee also is taking on a USO military mission giving. There will be a list of items for collection in the foyer. It was so great to find out there was to be a collection point right here in Bainbridge to which the committee can deliver goods periodically.

We are still collecting cancelled stamps, eye glasses, aluminum cans and tabs, Boxtops for Education labels (GM cereals, Betty Crocker mixes, Hamburger /Chicken/Tuna Helper, Kimberly-Clark personal products) Campbell products labels, old inkjet cartridges and, a new one, old cellular phones (make sure you clean off all your information and contacts). Now isn't this a help to get those things out of your drawers and cupboards? All for a good cause too!

If anyone would like to join our committee, we would love to see you on the first Wednesday of the month, about 11:00am. As Dr. Phil always says, "We have fun right here, don't we?"

Many thanks for your being so generous and giving. As I say so often, we may be small in numbers but our hearts are in the right place. We can make a difference.

God's Blessings to all
Eileen Dickerson, chairman

A Few Words About Inclusive Language

You may have noticed that the Worship Committee has decided to use an inclusive language Doxology on Sunday mornings. It is printed in the bulletin, and some of the words may be a bit different than the traditional hymn you are used to.

There is always a fine and difficult balance between holding on to traditional language, and changing the language to embrace new understandings. The UCC Eleventh General Synod instructed that a Book of Worship be developed and characterized by language that is truly inclusive with respect to God and to people. They concluded that *"Although the generic use of masculine terms has been accepted practice, it is exclusive and viewed as offensive by many. Further, the use of only masculine nouns and pronouns for God and of masculine generic terms for humankind has hidden the rich feminine imagery for God and God's people in scripture."*

Inclusive language is a fundamental issue of social justice. Language that is truly inclusive shows respect for all people. Scripture proclaims the world is created, redeemed, and sustained by the Word of God, and the church attests to the power of language and words, recognizing that words have the power to exploit and exclude as well as affirm and liberate.

This is not an issue of being "politically correct", but one of justice and theology. There is nothing wrong with imagining God as "Father." We do, however, acknowledge that God is more than father, more than masculine. So when we use the word "God" or "Creator" in the doxology, we are opening ourselves to a broader image of God who cannot be contained or defined. Biblical images of God include Midwife, Mother, Mother Bear, Shepherd, Woman, Baker, Eagle, Hen and others. For this reason, we have chosen to use this version of the doxology.

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts,
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost

We hope that you will find these words meaningful.

If you would like to read more about inclusive language in the UCC, please visit: <http://www.ucc.org/worship/inclusive-language/>.

Random Acts of Kindness

On February 14th the Church Growth Committee introduced something new. Each person attending church that Sunday was given two cards stating: You are the recipient of a random act of kindness. Everyone was encouraged to actively look for opportunities to perform an act of kindness then give a card to the recipient. If you missed getting your cards or need more cards, please see Kathy Ramey or Brenda Barenwald.

Our thanks to Brittney Allard, Jenna Ruzga and Muriel Lamppert for helping launch Random Acts of Kindness at BCUCC with a skit at worship on the 14th.

Our Gang Out to Dinner

We will continue the tradition that we just started last fall of going out to dinner to celebrate another successful Craft Show so that none of the workers has to cook (and the rest of us can spend more time shopping and less

time cooking.) The date is Saturday, March 13th, the time is 6pm, but the restaurant hasn't been selected yet. There are a couple of interesting new places opening in Bainbridge and it may be at one of those, or we will go back to the ever-popular Mandarin Seafood Buffet in Twinsburg. Watch for a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

A LOOK AHEAD: Mark Friday, April 23rd, for a fun theater night. We will go out to dinner (again, a mystery choice), and then go to see "Forever Plaid" at the Chagrin Falls Little Theater. This is a really fun musical show. I saw it years ago at the Palace Theater in Cleveland. It's about a guy singing group (like the Four Aces, Four Seasons, etc.) that gets trapped in time and can't go to heaven because they never got to give their big breakout performance. If you enjoyed the "fabulous four"- type music - or even if you didn't and it would be new to you - you'll have fun at this show.

Ellie Baldwin

Our Gang Part II

To plan ahead, in May we have reserved two tables for the luncheon and JoAnn Castle concert at the Croation Lodge in Eastlake. We will meet to carpool at 11:00am. The return home time is 4:00pm. A sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board. The date is Thursday, May 20th.

Julia Newton

Mindful Mondays

A new program from the Chagrin Valley Council of Churches is in the final planning stage and is to begin this month. The following article from the newsletter of Church of the Holy Angels fully explains this innovative endeavor. More information may now be found on the Mindful Mondays website. See website below.

Help Feed the Community on *Mindful Mondays*

by Jeannie Daunch

It's a Monday evening. You've worked hard all day, on the job, at home or at school. Everybody is hungry and nobody really feels like cooking. Somebody suggests going out for a bite to eat, and the family rushes to the car. What a great solution! No hassle. No food prep. Everybody gets what they like to eat, and best of all, no dishes to wash!

Wouldn't it be even more wonderful to enjoy that restaurant dinner with your family, knowing that you will actually be helping ANOTHER family enjoy some good food, too? A delicious new program called "Mindful Mondays" is the perfect solution!

Beginning with the onset of Lent in early March, 2010, the "Mindful Mondays" concept is brilliantly simple. Parishioners of Holy Angels and other area churches will present a special coupon to participating area restaurants when they dine out on Mondays. The business then donates 10% of those Monday evening sales (excluding alcohol and gratuities) to local food banks in our area. We get to share a meal and time with our family while also being mindful of others who may be less fortunate.

The clever concept of "Mindful Mondays" was presented by an anonymous donor, who approached Fr. Dan with the desire to raise awareness of those who are hungry in our area, and to help local restaurants with their marketing and charitable-giving plans. This project is a "win-win" for everyone involved!

What business doesn't recognize the value of charitable tax write-offs and free, local advertising through listings in brochures, printed advertisements and newspapers? Locally owned restaurants will get to help support and care for the less fortunate in our community, through very little effort on their part. The best part is that customers using their "Mindful Mondays" card will bring these participating restaurants business on traditionally "slow" nights in the food service industry.

Corporate sponsors are also being asked to donate funds to help with marketing and business expenses, and will receive free advertising and tax benefits as well. Parishioners can even help right now to "create the buzz" in Bainbridge and Chagrin Falls, by getting all of our favorite restaurants to sign up! Simply ask area restaurants if they've heard of "Mindful Mondays" and if they plan to participate. Additional information, including a list of participating restaurants, can be found on the website at www.mindfulmondays.org.

For further information about becoming a sponsor or participating restaurant, contact Holy Angels at (440) 708-0000. Bon appétit!

Cheers

Jim Kramer has been named Employee of the Year by A and R Cleveland.

At the Buckeye Classic Gymnastics Meet, **Brittney Allard** took 1st place in the floor exercise and 3rd place overall.

Kiran Kawolics, daughter of Pastor Susi, won the district championship in Original Oratory and qualified for the Speech and Debate national tournament as well. Kiran will compete in the state championships in March and the national championships in June.

	3	Vince Meier
	8	Kathy Meier
	14	Donna Giebner
	15	Dorothy Polaniec
	19	Carol Malz
	25	Judith Campbell
29	Austin Packard	

Happy Anniversary
March

- 2 Bud and Ellie Baldwin
- 30 Ken and Pat Moss



Sympathy

Our condolences to the family of Goldie Sturges, who died February 13, 2010. A memorial service was held at our church February 17, 2010.



Ushers: Thelma Payne, Lois Little, Greg Marous, Ellen Klaiber, Henry & Karen Dunasky, Tim Allard, Kathy Meier, Nancy Hammel, Ethelann Duncan.

Greeters: The Giebner Family

Worship Leader: Phil Klaiber

Teachers: Jeff Clawson, Carly Moss, Doug Giebner.

Nursery Attendants: Carolyn Clawson, Ellen Klaiber, Amy Rickelman, Eileen Dickerson

Coffee Fellowship: Lynne Charney, Carol Malz, Muriel Lamppert, Ladies Auxiliary, the Allard Family

Flowers: Barbara Phan, Bud & Ellie Baldwin, Donna Giebner.

Thank You To:

The Duncan Family for their participation on Scout Sunday. Hillary led A Time for the Young at Heart, Kendall was the leader for the responsive reading from the Psalms, Robert delivered A Word About Scout Sunday.

Andy Gall and Ken Moss for putting up the three crosses on the church lawn to mark the beginning of Lent.

Our Confirmands—Brittney Allard, Patrick Giebner, Kayla Rumford, Jenna Ruzga—and the children of our church who helped the Church Growth Committee get the word out about the Random Acts of Kindness Program.

Church Women United of Geauga County

Once again we join the ladies all around the world for our World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 5th. The service will be held at the First Congregational Church of Claridon. Our car pool will leave the church at 8:30. The service has been written by the ladies of Cameroon, Africa. We are invited to stay for a salad luncheon after the program. Please sign up on the bulletin board. These are always special services to be shared in our country.
Julia Newton

Brain Injury

"Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." Matthew 22:37 NIV

Your brain is one of the most important organs in your body since it coordinates all of the body's functions and thought processes. Without it you couldn't walk to the store, read your grocery list, count out your change, or hide the chocolate when you get home. It controls involuntary actions such as the beating of your heart and voluntary actions like dialing a phone. A traumatic brain injury (TBI) can happen to anyone and create many challenges for families living with TBI.

Those at highest risk are children 0-4 years old, 15-19 year olds, and military personnel. Although many injuries come from risk-taking activities such as sky diving or race car driving, many stem from normal actions of work and play like driving a car, playing a sport, or even falling at home. Long term effects of TBI include problems with memory, managing emotions, and risk of brain disorders in later years.

Decreasing the chance of an injury is easy with some basic safety practices. Wear seat belts to cut down on head injuries in the event of an accident. Have your children wear helmets when they ride bikes or rollerblade. Remove the clutter or throw rugs in the homes of your parents and older adults to prevent falls. A simple fall or blow to the head in any of these situations can cause severe complications requiring months or even years of rehabilitation with no guarantee of recovery.

If an injury does occur, watch the victim for signs of blurred vision, confusion, a severe headache, or repetition of questions or statements after the fall. Contact a doctor or visit the emergency room to determine the severity of the injury. Additional serious signs of a TBI might include violent vomiting, seizures or even loss of consciousness. As with other conditions, a timely visit to the emergency room is essential for long term health.

(Source: Brain Injury Association of America www.biausa.org/)

A Lenten Prayer

Loving Creator-
God of all seasons-
Our spirits yearn for spring as we journey
through these Lenten days.

As the migratory birds hear your call
to begin their flights home,
So may we heed your voice
And return,
to rest and nestle into
your loving heart-
Our true home.

As the deer shed their antlers,
to move less encumbered,
So may we release our fetters,
which keep us from freely
following your way.

As the woodland creatures sense the hour
of their hibernation's end,
So may we feel your spirit stirring within-
nudging us awake,
prodding us to step out of our secluded
darkness -
into your light,
into community.

May your Lenten spirit of imminent spring guide us-

Moving us to leave our solitary caves so we
may gather and work together,
Enabling us to leave all that weighs us down so
we may walk your path,
Opening us to listen for your call in our hearts
drawing us back to your loving presence.
Amen

