

Bainbridge Beam

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



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Do Not Delay**



2011

**Serving You At
Bainbridge Community Church**

Susi Kawolics, Acting 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

October 2011

From your acting Pastor

Dear Friends and Family at Bainbridge Community UCC:

The month of October, with its changing and falling leaves, provides a poignant spiritual lesson for us. It is a month that heralds a time of letting go. The leaves turn brilliant shades of reds, yellows and oranges, and then they slowly drop off the trees, leaving room for new growth.

Most of you are aware that we will be letting go of the relationship I have had with you as the pastor of your congregation. Although my final Sunday has not yet been determined, I will be leaving before the end of the calendar year. I find this parting to be difficult, since my experience with you has been truly wonderful. But I trust that our letting go will provide opportunities for new growth: You will grow under the leadership of your future pastor, and I will also grow in my new position as part-time interim associate pastor at Federated Church. Knowing that this leave-taking is coming makes me especially savor and appreciate the time we have left together. I look forward to continuing to worship with you while I am still your pastor.

October 2nd is World Communion Sunday, which we will celebrate with the wonderful tradition of breads from many places. These provide a tangible (and tasty!) reminder of how we are all connected with our brothers and sisters around the world.

October 9th I will be on study leave, and our own Judith Campbell will be delivering the morning message. She is a gifted and thoughtful preacher, and I know that she will inspire you.

Last year, to commemorate October as Domestic Violence Awareness month, we chose a Sunday to focus on this issue. This year we continue that tradition on Sunday, **October 16th**. As a church, we have long been supportive of the WomenSafe Domestic Violence Shelter. This year we will have the opportunity to visit their shelter called "The Greenhouse" after our church service that Sunday. All are invited, and those who are interested in going, please bring a lunch and a donation from the needs list on page 2. We will leave right after church, have lunch in their meeting room, and tour the facility.


In preparation for Stewardship Sunday in November, our worship on the last two Sundays in October will include talks from various members about what this church means to them. These witnesses are always heartfelt and inspiring.

We have some mission opportunities coming up in October: The Neighbors in Need collection will be on October 9th, and then on the last three Sundays in October, UNICEF boxes will be distributed to any children (or adults) who would like to receive them and collect.

There are some other happenings this month to be aware of. Our morning Bible Study at 10:00 AM continues and anyone is invited to come. Since my calendar is a bit different for this month, please check the BEAM calendar for the exact dates. Our group of moms will meet for Mindful MOMdays on October 24th at 7:00 PM in the lounge. And please be sure to help with and come to the Craft Show on Saturday, October 15th.

As we continue our journey through this fall season, let us relish our time together, and put our faith in God, the one who sustains us through all our letting go, and all our new ventures.

Peace-



Pastor Susi

Shout Out to Sunday School Teachers

Excerpt from Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45

*"Then he brought Israel out with silver and gold,
and there was no one among their tribes who stumbled."*

Reflection by Anthony B. Robinson

It occurs to me this being Saturday, and early in September, there may be a fair number of folks preparing their first Sunday school lesson of the year today (or tonight). Thank you. Thank you for teaching, for telling the story, for loving the kids, and for helping all of us in the church to fulfill our baptismal promises to our children and their parents. It matters.

The long 105th Psalm basically tells the story of Israel and thus the story of God, or part of it. One of the main things we are up to in Sunday school is helping people learn and love the stories, the great stories of our faith.

Some opening lines from the novel "Ceremony" by Native American author, Leslie Marmon Silko, have stuck with me. "I will tell you something about stories . . . They aren't just entertainment. Don't be fooled. They are all we have, you see, all we have to fight off illness and death. You don't have anything if you don't have the stories."

Imagine that: stories as health care! Stories to strengthen our immune system, set our broken bones and mend our torn hearts.

As people of faith, we have lots of amazing and wonderful stories. Together they make up one big story. It's the story of a God who created this good world and all of us in love and won't ever give up on us. It's the story of a God who has the first word and will have the last one, and that word is "Yes." It's the story of a God who finds a way when we don't, and who will be the way through life's many dangers, toils and snares.

So Sunday School teachers (preachers and parents), tell the stories. Furnish the imaginations of your children and adults with the stories. They aren't just entertainment. You don't have anything if you don't have the stories.

And Sunday School teachers: thank you.

Prayer

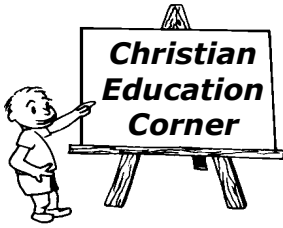
"Dear Lord, bless all those who are your storytellers tomorrow.
Grant them such grace that they may be so caught up in your story
as to forget themselves and be truly found alive and anew in you. Amen."

All are Invited: WomenSafe – The Greenhouse Tour Sunday, October 16TH

On Sunday, October 16th, after worship you are invited to visit the Womensafe Domestic Violence Shelter, The Greenhouse. Bring a lunch, and we'll drive to the center, eat in the meeting room and tour the Center. Please bring a donation from the list below as well.

- **Back to School:** folders, spiral notebooks, Lysol wipes, Ziploc bags (quart and gallon), composition notebooks, glue sticks
 - **Household Items:** coffee filters, large garbage bags, dish soap, hand soap, paper towels, toilet paper, laundry soap, dryer sheets
 - **Personal Items:** razors, hair relaxers
 - **Pantry Items:** sugar
 - **Clothing Donations:** Winter clothing donations accepted beginning September 1st
 - **Household Furnishings:** vacuum cleaners, DVD players, shelter needs, AAA batteries, water softener salts, flash drives
 - **Gift cards for:** grocery stores, pharmacies, gas, retail
We are no longer able to accept cribs or car seats due to liability concerns
 - **SPECIAL PROJECT:** WomenSafe is in need of store type shelving and clothing racks. If you or anyone you know has any type of store displays, or if you have any questions, please contact Patti 286-7154 x230 or email: wsdonations@windstream.net. ~ Thank you
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Welcome all to Sunday School 2011-2012!



We have enjoyed a great summer - many thanks to Sandy Allard for organizing the summer youth bike rides at bear town lakes and to the entire CE and Mission Committees for the FBS evening. We hiked, discussed food, ate food, enjoyed one of the most spectacular rainbows we have ever seen, sang music around the campfire, ate again (s'mores this time!), and decorated bags for a children's mission project.

The youth enjoyed a much-desired trip to Cedar Point, and on a cold and rainy day like today it is hard to remember the stifling heat of that day! I'm sure everyone has fantastic memories of that day but mine was watching Wendy and Jenna sitting in the front seat of Top Thrill Dragster waiting for take-off - for those of you not familiar with the facts of the ride . . . launch speed is 120 mph in 4 seconds, 420 foot climb with a 90 degree angle leading to a 400 foot descent featuring a 270 degree spiral - the tallest, fastest coaster on earth. Congrats to all who waited in line and rode roller coasters from open to close. Many rode coasters for the first time and everyone had a great time! All I have to say was thank goodness for the air conditioned ice skating venue!

The youth rummage sale was a success, raising over \$130. We consider this a charity event for the community selling all items for only a quarter! We had a great turn-out and everyone was thrilled with the beautiful, affordable finds.

Sunday School will feature a new curriculum from Progressive Christianity and is based on themes, like courage and inclusion, that are supported by scripture, famous quotes, and stories. Please consider being a Sunday School teacher. You can teach a Sunday here or there, or take a month at a time, which will promote consistency, and afford the opportunity to get to know our youth better. The curriculum includes many ideas to fill the time. If you are available to teach or co-teach please call (440.338.6291) or email (eruzga@gmail.com) Lisa Ruzga.

Please help your kids remember to trick or treat for change for UNICEF and while they're at it maybe they could check under the couch cushions and clean out the car for extra cents to donate.

Lisa Ruzga, Chair
Christian Educaion

From the Worship Committee

We look forward to seeing you at church for these upcoming Sundays:

- | | |
|---|--|
| October 2 nd | Bread of the World Communion |
| October 9 th | Pastor Susi on study leave, Message from Judith Campbell |
| October 16 th | Domestic Violence Awareness with an opportunity to tour "The Greenhouse" WomenSafe Shelter after church. |
| October 23 rd & 30 th | Regular Worship |

Upcoming Dates for Your Calendar:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| November 6 th | All Saints Day |
| November 20 th | Greening of the Church, after Worship |

There are recordings of our Sunday Services available for those interested. Each Sunday is recorded on a CD and placed on a table in the lounge. Please borrow the CD you'd like and return when finished.

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 or Vince Meier.*

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.

Sarah Popovic

From Your Search Committee

My wife and I are big fans of live theater – not just classic plays and musicals, but modern writers and new works. One of our criteria for evaluating a play is “Did we talk about it all the way home?” Did the author make us think? Challenge us? Cause us to look at some portion of the world or the human condition in a new way?

During one of our recent interviews, a candidate suggested that a sermon should be like that – a conversation starter that spills over into further discussion and exploration during the week(s) following, rather than a conversation stopper, a statement that “here’s how you should think, now go out and think that way”. This approach is somewhat akin to the questions Jesus asked the disciples about Himself: “Who do other people say that I am? Now, who do you say that I am?” Ultimately, the first question becomes irrelevant, regardless of whether the people telling us who Jesus is are those in the secular world outside the faith community or those within the church itself. The only question that matters is the second, which we must each be challenged to answer for ourselves, an answer expressed not only in words but also in our lives and actions. The discussion that leads up to our answer – dialogues between us, other seekers, and God – may take years, and our answer itself may change over time, becoming more complex as our relationship with God matures.

May we all be so challenged by God’s Word, and by those who faithfully bring that Word to us, that we seek to deepen our understanding and knowledge, even as we go “all the way home”.

Blessings and peace in Christ on your journey, Reed Walters, Chair

Growth Committee

The United Church of Christ is celebrating its extravagant welcome through "Each One Bring One Sunday" on November 6th. The UCC is asking its congregations to reach out and invite others to worship with them at Church. The Church Growth Committee at BCUCC sees this as a great opportunity to show others what a great place we have to worship. It also allows us to show our visitors our involvement in local, national and global ministries. Research suggests that 3 out of 4 people attend church for the first time when they are invited. The Growth Committee would encourage us all to bring a friend on November 6th.

Phil Klaiber, Chair

WHAT IS 'FIVE FOR FIVE?'

I feel I am somewhat new to this church and I have heard the above phrase spoken many times. I was never sure what it meant exactly until I got involved in the Mission committee. A lot of information was spelled out in the letter we received from Rev. Black

1. **UCC Basic Support** - provides funding for national ministries of the UCC
2. **One Great Hour of Sharing** - collects resources for international programs in health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries and disaster relief worldwide.
3. **Strengthen the Church** - supports new churches and assists Christian education of clergy and lay persons.
4. **Neighbors in Need** - supports social justice and compassion concerns worldwide.
5. **Christmas Fund** - supplements pension and health premiums for low-income retired church workers and provides emergency assistance for clergy families.

Mind you, each group does more than I have shown above. It is a wonderful feeling that the amount that I donate to these missions ends up supporting such big issues in our world. Everyone in this church should be proud that we support these world wide causes.

Kathy Meier, Mission Chair

We have a number of events coming up in collaboration with our friends from Solon UCC and Twinsburg UCC.

- Thursday, October 20th: *Internet and Social Media Awareness*. 7 p.m. at Bainbridge UCC. Co-sponsored by SCC and Twinsburg.
- Wednesday, November 16th: Informational program for seniors and their adult children on lifestyle options for seniors. Co-sponsored by Solon and Twinsburg. 7 p.m. at SCC.
- Sunday, December 4th: Combined Choir Christmas Concert. 4 p.m. at Twinsburg UCC. Co-sponsored by SCC.
- January (date to be determined). First Aid Training. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at SCC. Co-sponsored by Bainbridge and Twinsburg. Mark your calendars.

BOOK CLUB

Hopefully you had time during your busy summer to read Sing You Home by Jodi Picoult. If not, you probably still have time to read it before we discuss it on Sunday, October 23rd after church. Read it with an open mind, and rest assured you will not guess the ending. There will be a lot to discuss.
Ellie Baldwin



Worship Leaders: Chet P. Ramey, Vince Meier

Ushers: Greg Marous, Vince Meier, Chet E. Ramey, Sue Johnson, Andy Gall, Eileen Dickerson, Ethelann Duncan, Brittney Allard.

Greeters: Vivian DeRolf & Kayla Rumford.

Coffee Hosts: Vivian DeRolf & Kayla Rumford, Ladies Auxiliary, Lisa Ruzga & Helpers, Ethelann Duncan & Carol Malz.

Flowers: Chet E Ramey, Barbara & Al Phan, Eileen Dickerson

Nursery: Virginia Johnson, Ethelann Duncan, Kayla Rumford, Brittney Allard.

Music: Chet & Kathy Ramey, Vince Meier, Isabel Held, Our BCUCC Choir

Teachers: Karen Dunasky, Sandy Allard & Kayla Rumford.

Happy Birthday October

1 Lisa Ruzga	13 Lori Boyer
3 Lois Little	16 Barbara Gamble
4 Henry Dunasky	17 Virginia Johnson
9 Jeff Bryan	25 Kevin Moss
11 Garrett Moss	31 Wendy Duncan

Happy Anniversary October

11	Steve & Bonnie Sofranko
13	Donna & Scott Giebner



Dear Church Family

I would like to thank you for your support and many prayers for Jeffrey (my son) during his illness. He is still struggling and in rehab trying to gain weight and strength. We are hopeful for a full recovery. I cannot thank you enough and I miss all of you.

Barbara Kolesar



Dear Church Family,

Michael and I are feeling so grateful to be a part of this church, with your love and support as we await Baby Popovic! Thank you for sharing this special time with us and for showering us with your prayers, well-wishes and gifts at the beautiful baby shower. Many thanks to Lisa Ruzga and crew for arranging the shower and making it such a memorable event in our lives. We are blessed to know you all and can't wait to have you meet Baby Pop!
Love, Sarah, Michael and Baby Popovic

School Supplies 2011

Thank you to everyone who brought in paper, pencils, glue sticks and more. The Kenston staff gladly accepted all items and they will be distributed to students in need at Timmons and Gardiner Schools. Your generosity is overflowing....as was the wagon that that filled to the brim with the school supplies. Everyone should be so proud of this generous faith community.



Two lovely thank you letters were sent to the church recently. The first letter was from CUE Seminaries of the UCC. Our church gifted them with \$268.00 between the months of January and June this year. This contribution helps the seminary system provide affordable education for our future clergy and lay leaders.

The second letter came from Rev. Geoffrey Black, president of UCC. He stated he was happy to share the news that our congregation is a "Five for Five" church for 2010. These letters will be posted on the bulletin board for you to read.

Bainbridge Community Church
First Congregational Church of Twinsburg
&
Solon Community Church

Present

"Internet and Social Media Awareness"



Speaker: Sgt. Jack Silvas
Bainbridge Police Department

Thursday, October 20, 2011
7:00pm

Bainbridge Community UCC
Social Hall
17751 Chillicothe Road (SR 306)
Chagrin Falls, OH 44023
440.543.5117
Just south of Route 422

WINTER

All Seasons and More Craft Fair

SPRING

Fall is here and it is the Craft Fair season. Ours is one of the early ones on October 15th at 9:00am. We hope to see you and a friend. I am always amazed at the different items we have, the old favorites and new ones too.

We need some donations which will be listed in October 2nd bulletin. Pies are needed for the kitchen luncheon. Bake sale items can be your favorite bakery. If you make brownies or cookies, please place 4 to 6 on a paper plate. Sugar free items would be most welcome. Please label bakery i.e. flavor, nuts and name of item. It's hard to differ between cherry pie and raspberry. Bakery may be brought in Friday and it all must be in by 10:00am on Saturday the 5th. The church will open at 7:30am. See Shirley Takacs with any questions.

Eileen Dickerson is responsible for the church craft table. Check with her if you have any items to donate.

Clean-up and tear down begins at 3:15pm on Saturday, please sign up to help.

Thank you for your donation, help and participation!

Julia Newton, Chair

SUMMER

FALL



**Bainbridge Community United Church of Christ
German Dinner & Polka Band
Saturday, November 5, 2011**

Menu:

Choice of Sauerbraten or Bratwurst
Spaetzles
Green Beans
Pickled Beets
Apple Crisp with Ice Cream

Dinner will be served at 6:00 PM.
Band will play from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Cost: \$15.00 per Adult / \$8.00 per child

Limited Seating! Only 100 dinners will be served.

440-543-5117
bainbridgecommunity@gmail.com