

Bainbridge Beam

The Newsletter of the Bainbridge Community United Church of Christ March 2011

From Your Acting Pastor

Dear Friends and Church Family at BCUCC,

As we move towards March, we make our way out of the season of Epiphany, which focuses on Light, into the more somber season of Lent. Usually this is not my favorite season of the liturgical year. We think of it as a season of penitence, where we have to give up things, where the mood is subdued, where we focus on the suffering and death of Jesus. You will notice the more austere environment in the Worship space, as well as the absence of “Alleluias” in our hymns and doxology. We will also be adding a prayer of Confession and a “Kyrie Eleison” (Lord have mercy) to our Sunday Worship services.

Despite its gloominess, however, Lent actually means “spring”. And after the winter we’ve had, who doesn’t look forward to that? I recently attended a worship workshop which focused on some Lenten themes, and where I was introduced to a new way to frame the Lenten season. I learned that the word “mercy” comes from the word “*eleos*.” This has the same root as the word for olive oil, which was used as a soothing agent for bruises and minor wounds. The oil was poured onto the wound and gently massaged, thus soothing, comforting and making whole the injured part. The Hebrew word for mercy is *hesed*, and means steadfast love. Therefore, when we hear the words “Lord have mercy,” or “Kyrie, eleison”, it is to say, “Lord, soothe me, comfort me, take away my pain, show me your steadfast love.” In this context, mercy does not so much refer to justice or acquittal, but rather to the infinite loving-kindness of God, and God’s compassion for us – God’s suffering children. (From “Orthodox worship” Anthony M. Coniaris). It is in this mindset that I approach the Lenten season. Even though we are in need of God’s mercy and forgiveness, we are *already* held in God’s love and mercy as we ask for forgiveness.

You are invited to begin the season of Lent with an **Ecumenical Ash Wednesday service on March 9th at 7:00 at Lord of Life Lutheran Church**, which will include imposition of ashes, Communion, as well as a collection for the Sojourner’s fund. We will have the opportunity to deepen our Lenten journeys through the Chagrin Valley Council of Church Lenten soup suppers every Wednesday. As in years past, the various churches in the area will rotate the hosting of the evenings of fellowship and reflection. These evenings will begin with a soup supper at 6:00 PM, and then a video at 6:45. This year we are using short films from the NOOMA® Series, which are very compelling and thought-provoking. Following the films there will be a chance for discussion and fellowship. See details for places and themes on page 5. (Because of this, our Mindful MOMdays will not be meeting during the month of March.)

We will also be trying something new here at Bainbridge to support each other. For all those interested, we will begin a “Prayer partners” ministry. Each month, those who would like to participate will be randomly paired with a partner. The two will commit to praying for each other throughout the month. After that, the partners will be reassigned for the next month. It is our hope that this will strengthen the bonds that exist between those in this faith community, and add support and friendship in this church. There is a form to fill out and return to the church if you are interested (see page 2). You may also call the church or email bainbridgecommunity@gmail.com if you would like to be included. We will begin this in April.

Please remember to give generously to the “One Great Hour of Sharing” collection which will take place on March 27th. Also, Christian Education and Mission are giving us the opportunity to donate to the Youth Campership Fund. We will be collecting on March 6th and 13th and your generosity will make it possible for some of our youth to attend a Christian summer camp.

As we continue on our journeys and enter the season of Lent, may we always know the soothing, healing mercy of God. And in our hurting world, may we offer that same merciful balm to others.

Yours in Christ-

Pastor Sue

Share Your “Mountaintop” Experiences

There are times in our lives when we feel particularly close to God. These times are what can be termed “Mountaintop” experiences. Sometimes they happen when we feel like we’re on top of the world, but often we get a sense of God’s presence when we’re in a deep valley as well.

Sunday March 6th is Transfiguration Sunday. Jesus took the disciples up the mountain, and they had the experience of knowing Jesus in a whole new way. In celebration of that Sunday, Pastor Susi would like to be able to share YOUR stories of your experiences during worship. Please share your stories with her, either in person, by phone (440 543-1301 home) or by email (pastorsusibcucc@yahoo.com). If you feel comfortable, you may tell the story yourself from the pulpit during worship on the 6th. Or, if you’d rather, Pastor Susi will tell it for you.

May Transfiguration Sunday be a time when we witness to the presence of God in our lives.

Grief Recovery Support Group – Being offered at Valley Presbyterian Church

Reverend John Wahl at Valley Presbyterian Church will be leading the sessions for the GriefShare Support Group. They will be held on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 – 8:30pm February 22nd through May 17th. They are open to anyone, and each session is independent of the others, so you do not have to attend all. Registration fee is \$15.00 to cover the cost of a workbook that you keep.

Call 440.543.1071 to register or for more information.

New Procedures During Secretary’s Medical Leave

As many of you know, our secretary, Barb Hincke, is at home recovering from back surgery. While she is gone, our church is no longer open during the week. If you need to enter the church and do not have a key, please make arrangements with someone. All prayer requests may be emailed or called into Annette Schell, Diaconate Chairperson (440.564.5050 or aschell516@yahoo.com). If you need to reach Pastor Susi in an emergency, you may call her at home at 440.543.1301, or call Patty Willson, moderator, on her cell at 216.470.4389. Patty will be reading email sent to the church email address bainbridgecommunity@gmail.com.

Since the secretarial work is now being done by volunteers, we are asking that all information for the bulletin be turned in by MONDAY for the following Sunday. Please be patient and kind with any glitches that may occur, and thank those who are working hard to keep everything going.

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I would like to participate in the Prayer Partners ministry:

Name: _____

Phone number: _____ Email: _____

I prefer to be contacted by: Phone email either

Christian Education Corner



Our themes in Church School for this month have focused on "Making Choices". We are reading about the people in both the Old and New Testament of the Bible who have had to make choices, and how their good choices were life giving. God gives us the freedom to choose as well, and we are reminded that we are all partners working together for God. Christian Education is looking for teachers to fill out the calendar from March-May. Please sincerely think about teaching or co-teaching.

Remember how much fun Summer Camp was? It is that time of the year for our youth to be making a choice with their parents to attend a UCC Summer Camp. In order to receive a reduced rate, deposits must be made by the end of March. Information for camping is on the easel in the church foyer. We will be offering camperships for those needing financial assistance. A special offering will be collected the first two Sundays in March. If you wish to donate to this important mission and know you will not be in attendance those Sundays, please send your check to the church with "campership" marked in the memo. Anyone interested in attending camp or receiving campership funds, please talk with Sandy Allard or Eileen Dickerson. Those youth attending in past years have found the experience to be both fun and inspirational.

Plans are in the formative stages for a special Spring/Easter party for the children put on by the Youth Group of our church. Look for further details in upcoming bulletins, emails, and the next Beam.

Some special pictures of our youth are in the foyer over the lectern. These will remain displayed there until Lent. They are from the Christmas Eve service. We are so proud of our children! Our thanks to Brenda Barenwald for taking the pictures, and Tim Allard for printing out for the display.

Our Confirmation class is learning in some different ways. It is special to have a class with adults to learn together. Thank you Pastor Susi for arranging this time together. A service project is being planned with our confirmands and those from Solon and Twinsburg. This is another good way to learn and serve others as well.

Along the lines of learning and Christian Education, many in our church family are looking forward to the Lenten soup/supper/discussion series held each week at a different local church. Pastor Susi said that the series which will be used for discussion this year is different from past years, and very discussion inspiring. It will be nice to meet with our "Lenten friends" from the community once again. Birds are beginning to chirp loudly, and we are beginning to see the ground again peeking through the snow. Enjoy this taste of Spring.

Sandy Allard, Karen Dunasky - Co-chairpersons, Christian Education



YOUTH CHOIR

A Message From the Worship Committee

Soon, we will be organizing our Youth Choir Members for singing either on Palm Sunday or Easter. Please see Lori Boyer, Josh Chenoweth, or Sarah Popovic for more details. We look forward to singing together again!

From your Search Committee

Well, it's been about a year since the Search Committee was formed and began this journey. Where are we?

- We've compiled a congregational profile from our experiences, the work of prior committees, and your input.
- We've received and screened a lot of candidate profiles – by my count, between 30 and 40.
- We've listened to a lot of sermons, on all kinds of media – cassette tapes, CDs, DVDs, church Web sites, even YouTube! If nothing else, hearing and seeing all these devoted servants of God preach has been a spiritually uplifting experience.
- We've conducted several telephone interviews, some with references supplied by the candidate, and a few with the candidates themselves. As with the sermons, these more direct contacts with the candidates have been enriching times of sharing.
- We've had a lot of good fellowship and “team building” with each other, although none of us would mind getting our Tuesday nights back!
- We have been reminded more than once that this search process is one of mutual discernment, as some candidates we've been interested in have chosen to pursue other opportunities and even accept other offers. When this happens in the middle to late stages of the interviewing process (and it did in December), it's very disappointing, since we have a fair amount of time invested in such a candidate.

Fortunately, God provides – we received a sermon from another candidate on the topic of hope and encouragement! Since we are constrained by confidentiality, we can't really tell you much about who we're interviewing. And as we've found out, we don't really know where we are in the process until we're done (including the contract and financial negotiation). A candidate may back out at any point, or we may decide after a couple of interviews that this really isn't a good fit for one party or the other – suddenly we're back to reading profiles. We will communicate as best we can, but please try to understand that we cannot compromise our candidates' situations by revealing too much detail. Thank you for your support and your prayers.

In His service,

Reed Walters

Mission Moment

February 27th will be our yearly C U E Mission. Chicago, United and Eden Seminaries strengthen our churches by providing lay theological education programs and continuing education for the leaders in our churches. Each school is a vibrant, caring and challenging place in which to pursue theological education. Thanks for your generous support over the years. March 27th is our annual 5 for 5 ~ One Great Hour of Sharing Mission. These Great Missions can be given to not just on these dates, but by mailing your gifts to the Church at any time during February and March. We are trying to set up a time for a Bake Sale with Trisha Ford and her Relay for Life Mission. We will keep you posted.

Many Thanks again you kind and generous people.

Eileen Dickerson, Chairperson



SOUP SUPPERS AND DISCUSSIONS FOR LENT 2011

The Chagrin Valley Council of Churches Lenten series for this year will be based on the NOOMA® Series. **NOOMA®** is a series of short films that explore our world from a perspective of Jesus. **NOOMA®** is an invitation to search, question, and join the discussion.

Please join us for the 5 Wednesdays in Lent:

6:00 PM – Come feed your body with a Free Soup Supper (freewill donations accepted)

6:45 PM – Feed your soul with inspirational film and discussion

DATE	PLACE	TITLE	THEME
March 16	Valley Presbyterian Church	<i>Trees</i>	“How can we live our lives as partners in God’s creation?”
March 23	Auburn Community UCC	<i>Sunday</i>	Do we get so wrapped up in religion that we miss out on what’s important to God?
March 30	Holy Angels Catholic Church	<i>Name</i>	Are we so concerned with what others think that we miss out on being who God created us to be?
April 6	Lord of Life Lutheran Church	<i>Rhythm</i>	Are our lives in tune with God’s plan for the World?
April 13	Bainbridge Community UCC	<i>Breathe</i>	Is our physical breath actually a picture of a deeper, physical reality?

May these evenings enhance your Lenten journey as they deepen your relationship with God and with others.



A Note of Sympathy

On January 19, 2011, David Jones died following a long illness. A memorial service was held at our church on February 13, 2011. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Wendy Jones, and the entire Jones family.

We Offer Our Prayer Support



Please pray for the following people: Jeanne Shelton, Bette Eberhard, Sandy Allard, her sister and their families, Karen Brown (former BCUCC secretary), Bill & Irene Hein’s daughter, Barbara Timmons, Wendy Jones & family, Barb Hincke, Dorothy Hurd and Darlene Gall. Remember to hold our Search Committee in special prayer and express your appreciation for their dedication to the search for our future pastor.

Also hold Mary Wideman-Blake and her daughter, Emma in prayer as they settle into their new home. Their information appears below – please update your Church Directories:

111 Ashland Lane
Aurora, Ohio 44202
Phone: 330.285.7435

From the Worship Committee

Thank you for sharing your thoughts and feelings in regard to applauding during the worship service. The worship committee believes in the statement below and hopes everyone appreciates both ways of thinking.

"There may be times when applause is the only adequate way for us to express the genuine feelings of enthusiasm for and endorsement of what has been said or sung or the joy or wonder or gratitude for the insight we have received.

At such time applause may be prompted by the Spirit of God and we wish to make no "rule" that would limit our freedom to follow the leading of the Spirit.

We also recognize that applause may be offered, and is usually offered in our culture, not to God but to human beings, and not for the content of what is said or sung as frequently as for the "performance" of the saying or singing.

*We recommend that we make love our aim in this matter: Applause will neither be forbidden nor become so commonplace as to be expected and sought after by those leading in worship, and the Holy Spirit will guide us in "maintaining the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace." **

* From a Worship Committee Report, First Presbyterian Church of Roanoke, VA

On Sunday mornings before worship, the doors to the sanctuary will be open. Everyone is welcome to enter when they choose. The choir may be finishing up rehearsal, but church attendees are welcome to sit and enjoy listening to the final touches to the Sunday morning anthems.

The Worship Committee also invites all people to take part in our time together on Sunday mornings. If interested in being an usher or worship leader, please speak with Sarah Popovic.

Finally, people interested in signing up to provide altar flower arrangements for our Sunday services need only to consult the sign-up chart on the bulletin board to reserve a date.



The church would like to announce that new candle fixtures on the altar were purchased with the monies given to the memorial fund for Lynn and Donna Patterson's baby. Bainbridge Community UCC expresses our sincere gratitude and a heartfelt thanks to the Patterson family for this wonderful gift.

As most of the congregation has observed, we have made great improvements in the church office. New paint, carpet, curtains, and furniture were purchased. We would like to recognize the memorial gifts which helped us to pay for these improvements. The Linn Giles, Dorothy Griswold, Robert Hamilton, Helen Huberty, Stanley Jaros, Clemy Marous, Steve Sekerek, and Lettie Wren memorials were used to fund these marvelous changes. The office is now a much more pleasant place to work. Thank you to the families of the above mentioned members and friends of our church.

'HOP INTO SPRING' CRAFT SHOW



March 19, 2011

Did you know that at each Craft Show held at our church, we set up a church table?

Please help us fill our table with your handmade craft items. The proceeds from this table benefit our church. Bring your craft items to the church in a marked bag prior to March 18th. This will allow us time to set up. Questions, please speak with Eileen Dickerson, Table Coordinator or Julia Newton, Event Chair.

FUNDRAISERS

At our Semi-Annual Congregational meeting on February 6th, the following fundraisers for 2011 were approved:

March 19th - Craft Show, Julia Newton, Chair
April - Malley's Candy Sale, Sue Johnson, Chair
June 18th - Trash and Treasure, Patty Willson
Sept. 10th - Auction, Patty Willson Chair
Oct. 15th - Craft Show, Julia Newton Chair
Dec. 17th - Christmas Cookies, Lisa Ruzga, Chair

As you can see, missing from the list are our annual Rummage Sale and the Church dinners. As of February 6th, no one had volunteered to chair these fundraisers. Is this the year that you will take your turn as chairperson or as co-chairperson for one of these events? If so, please contact our church moderator, Patty Willson. (You will make her day!)

While we are speaking of fundraisers, our Annual Auction has been scheduled for September, but it is not too soon to begin thinking about your donations. We can use handcrafted items, gift baskets, new or gently used housewares, antiques, food items, and postmark surprise packages.

Get the word out: we accept donations from non-church members, as well as our church family. Do not be shy about gently nudging your friends away from posting items on "Craig's List" and steering them towards donating their good quality items to our auction.

Auction Committee Chairperson, Patty Willson



BOOK CLUB

On the first Sunday in April the Book Club will be meeting to discuss Kathryn Stockett's most recent novel entitled, The Help. This novel takes place in Jackson, Mississippi during the height of the twentieth century civil rights movement. The plot centers on the lives of several black women, who take care of the children of white families, yet are not trusted to polish the family silver. It is a fascinating glimpse back at our society of over fifty years ago and provides insight on not only how much America has changed, but also how far we, as a society, need to go.

There are many print copies of this book at all of our local libraries. Some of these libraries also stock an audio version of this book.

OUR GANG THEATER NIGHT



Mark your calendar for March 25 as *Our Gang* members will be returning to the Chagrin Valley Little Theater to see the musical, "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels". While this theatrical production does not sound like a very uplifting activity for Lent, this play is, in fact, a morality comedy based on the movie starring Steve Martin and Michael Caine.

For this event, *Our Gang* members will meet for dinner at Bob Evans (in Bainbridge) at six p.m. and then go to the play. Interested members can sign up in the church foyer for either dinner reservations or play tickets or both. Theater tickets are twelve dollars.

Future activities planned for *Our Gang* members include a trip back to the Croatian Hall for lunch and the show, "A Son Remembers: a Dean Martin Tribute." Tickets for this event will be forty-two dollars. Additional information and a chance to sign up for this activity will be available in the church foyer in the near future.

In addition, *Our Gang* is also planning to go see the Lake County Captains baseball team in June at a date that has yet to be determined. Membership in *Our Gang* is obtained by simply signing up and then showing up to any of the above mentioned activities.

ALL ARE WELCOME!



Many Thanks to our February Helpers

Worship Leader: Phil Klaiber

Ushers: Greg Marous, Tim Allard, Virginia Johnson, Eileen Dickerson, Kathy Meier, Hillary Duncan

Greeters: Dick and Julia Newton, Greg and Terri Schaefer

Communion Helpers: Karen and Henry Dunasky, Brenda Barenwald, Virginia Johnson and Eileen Dickerson

Coffee Hosts: Al and Barb Phan, Vivian DeRolf and Kayla Rumford

Flowers: Karen Dunasky, Sandy Allard

Nursery: Ellen Klaiber, Brittney Allard, Sue Johnson, Hillary Duncan

Teachers: Karen Dunasky, Kayla Rumford

All: who helped with coffee, fellowship, and arrangements for our Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting held in the Social Hall on February 6th.

Happy Birthday

March 3rd	Vince Meier
March 8th	Kathy Meier
March 14th	Donna Geibner
March 15th	Dorothy Polaniec
March 19th	Carol Malz
March 25th	Judith Campbell
March 29th	Austin Packard

Happy Anniversary

March 2nd	Bud and Ellie Baldwin
March 20th	Ken and Pat Moss



Congratulations

Our Lisa (Elizabeth) Ruzga has accepted a new position with UH MacDonald Women's Hospital in Maternal Fetal Medicine as Patient Navigator. Lisa will provide emotional support and plan care to patients with high-risk pregnancies and ones requiring diagnostic procedures related to birth disorders that will undergo treatment before or after birth. Please see our bulletin board for more information.



Dearest BCUCC Family;

I want to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers, visits, food and flowers through both my surgery and recovery. The fruit basket and prayer shawl were a welcomed joy.

As they found a little more problem than anticipated, looks like my recovery is going to take a while longer.

I do miss everyone so very much and can't wait to get back. I hope you are keeping my seat warm :-).

Love,
Barb Hincke



Attention High School Seniors

\$1,000 Scholarships are available to UCC graduating seniors.

Go to <http://www.geaugaweb.com> for details.