



The Bridge

June 2014 | Community Congregational Church UCC

Church Office Hours Tue—Wed 10:00am to 2:00pm

Rev. Renie's
Office Hours

Tues - Thurs. 10:00am to 2:00pm
and by appointment

Happenings

Sunday June 1

10:00 AM Communion Sunday
Worship
12:00 PM Middle and High
School Youth Group

Tuesday June 3

10:00 AM Women's Coffee

Thursday June 5

10:00 AM Holiday House
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Sunday June 8

Pentecost Sunday
10:00 AM Youth Worship
12:00 PM no Youth Group

Tuesday June 10

10:00 AM Women's Coffee

Thursday June 12

10:00 AM Holiday House
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Saturday June 14

8:30 AM Feeding Our Friends of
the Street



Sunday June 15

10:00 AM Sunday Morning
Worship
12:00 PM Middle and High
School Youth Group

Tuesday June 17

10:00 AM Women's Coffee
6:45 PM Church Council

Thursday June 19

10:00 AM Holiday House
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Sunday June 22

Congregational Meeting
10:00 AM Sunday Morning
Worship
12:00 PM Middle and High
School Youth Group

Tuesday June 24

10:00 AM Women's Coffee
7:00 PM Rolling Tones Rehearsal

Thursday June 26

10:00 AM Holiday House
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Sunday June 29

10:00 AM Sunday Morning
Worship
12:00 PM Middle and High
School Youth Group

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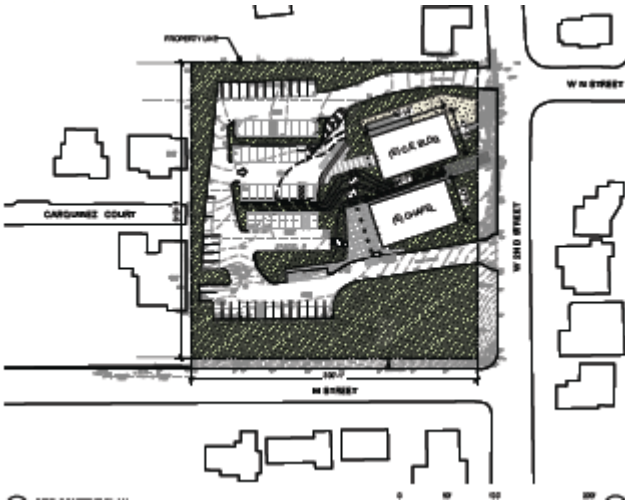
**June 8
Pentecost
Sunday.**



Campus Enhancement

Jim Lessenger

The Campus Enhancement Committee is moving along carefully. The loan is now signed and will provide the Church a line of credit for the construction. Westgate Construction has been selected as the general contractor. The landscaping drawings are finalized and have been distributed to the committee members. We are now waiting for the final engineering drawings that will include a rebuild of the sewer system and “stubbing in” of the utilities to the second pad for a recreation hall. The next steps are to review and approve the engineering drawings, to confer with the contractor, and to seek construction approvals from the City of Benicia. To date, all expenses have been paid for by donations so the church as this point does not yet owe money.



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Welcome and Growth

Dale and Debi Stanley

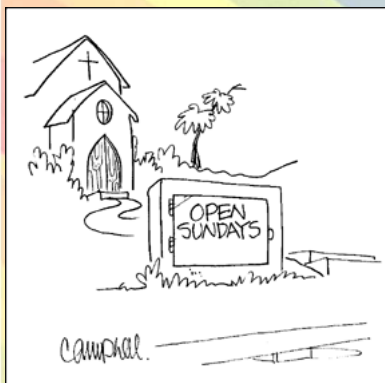
“No matter who you are...” includes us!

We say it every Sunday: “No matter who you are or where you are in life’s journey, you are welcome here.” And we mean it – it’s part of our mission, our values, and who we are. We say it and then have opportunity to act it out during our fellowship time after church service.

It’s easy to remember to be welcoming when we see new visitors. We’ve gotten pretty good at noticing them and saying hello. We’ve improved in how we make sure they always have someone to talk to and be handed off to others. We even see who they are by the dots on their name tags.

And it’s really easy to be welcoming to our dear friends whom we see every Sunday. With some, we’re able to just take up the conversation where we left it last Sunday!

What about the rest of us? Do you always talk to the same people every Sunday? Do you always sit at the same table?



Tap into the welcoming spirit that comes from crossing our habitual boundaries of age, usual friends, and past conversations. Strike up a new conversation with one of those persons you recognize every Sunday, but rarely speak to. Ask them what they did this past week or what their family is up to. Just like with our new visitors, an open-ended question could be the beginning of a deeper welcoming experience for both of you.

Don’t forget that when we say, “...you are welcome here” also means us!



Music Matters



Barbara Hamm

Keyboard. Check. Keyboard stand. Check. Music stand. Check. I really was ready this last month to play with Shelby and Dale for our friends on the street while our church served breakfast. I had already planned to arrange the music while I had a bite to eat beforehand. When I opened the folder there were several different lists—all different. Which one? When I got my equipment out of my car, I realized I had no stool to sit on. Bruce and Darryl volunteered to go to their home to get one—thank you, guys! And Dale gave me his till it arrived. But I'd also left the correct glasses in the car, and now we were already playing. And soon a light breeze began ruffling the pages around. I'd also forgotten the clips to hold the music when we play outdoors. Like Alexander in the children's story, it was turning out to be a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad morning. Wait. No. It was a very good morning. Let me clarify. While I was inwardly berating myself for all the things I'd forgotten, people's bodies and spirits alike were being fed. Over 100 people showed up to eat breakfast. Some woman was dancing to our music. I could see heads bobbing to the rhythms. People clapped in delight after several of the songs we played. Several of them told us how much they enjoyed the music. My bumbling and discomfiture didn't prevent God from using the situation to bless people, to create a sense of community that blessed those serving and those being fed, those making the music as well as those listening to it.

Thank you, God. Lesson learned. We don't always have it all together—much as we try. And believe me, I really do try! God can use us anyway—sometimes despite ourselves rather than because of us. The imperfect fragments of our lives can still be a means of blessing if we offer them and allow God's holy synergy to put it all together. It really was a very good morning after all. And I won't have to move to Australia. (But I will definitely think things through a little bit better for next month!)

June Worship Services

June 1: Sanctuary Choir singing "Song of the Body of Christ" with the congregation singing

June 8: Pentecost Sunday with the youth planning and leading worship. Special music will be brought by Audrey Benton and Katie Stamm-Kirk singing "The Greatest Love of All."

June 15: Sanctuary Choir singing "In This Very Room"

June 22: Sanctuary Choir singing "What Does the Lord Require of You?" They will close the choir year by singing "The Lord Bless You and Keep You" at the end of service.

June 29: Deborah Shanks accompanying the service and providing special music, as I will be going to New Orleans at the end of June to be with my daughter at the impending birth of her child. Thank you, Deborah, for serving in this important way.



Handbell
Choir

The Rolling Tones are taking some time off in the summer to work on individual projects, perhaps to include a duet or quartet or two. Chole McGraw and Leslie Lessenger will be attending the Area XII Handbell Conference in San Luis Obispo and hope to bring home great new ideas.

Anyone who can read music and would like a fun experience with a great group of people, contact Leslie at lhl@lessenger.net about joining the Rolling Tones next year!

Stewardship

Michelle Cavagnuolo

“Why Your Pledge of Money and Time Matters”

This article may rustle a few feathers, or not. As a caveat, I will say that if you sent your pledge card in already, increased your pledge from the year prior, give generously of your income and time I am sincerely thankful of your willingness to lead with faith. I feel safe in saying that our Pastor, our Youth and the hundreds of lives we change (including our own) with our open doors and through our collective generousities thank you tremendously for your generosity as well. You understand that without your efforts, we simply would not exist. It really is that simple.

So what will it take to convince the rest of you?



As you may or may not know, we receive no outside funding, grants or support, and so, it is important for us to know how and why pledging changes year over year to create our annual budget. In the past, despite heartfelt pleas, narrative budgets, reminders and opportunities to volunteer there remain a segment of the congregation who do not pledge, but “give what they can, when they can.” I understand you. I used to be you.

Then this church changed my life in a way I still am not able to do justice in explaining, but it has much to do with creating a belief that through giving, I am actually walking with Christ. I am actually living a healthier life when I give of my time and my wallet. A life that I did not think was possible as I spent most of my time living in fear. Fear that I would not have enough month to month to survive (not true), that my child would never be accepted in his community with two moms (thank you for proving me wrong there!), and that I would never take a leadership role in anything important (boy, am I ever grateful to Larry Schaffer for this faith in me). These opportunities exist for you too.

I invite you to step away from your fear and listen to your truth. You matter.

Electronic giving doesn't take vacations



This summer, if you can't make it to church due to travel or other commitments, we encourage you to automate your regular donations. Community Congregational relies on the consistent financial support of the congregation and electronic giving offers an easy way to give on a recurring basis. Simply visit www.cccucc.org and locate the donation link. Or, if you prefer, pick up an authorization form. We thank you for your continued support!

Pastor's Ponderings

Rev. Renie Stamm-Kirk



Ahhh....summer. Just the thought of it brings up memories of warm days, swimming and other water sports, camping, baseball, BBQs, family gatherings, and great times. For many families summer is the time to temporarily disconnect from the daily grind and attend family reunions that bring relatives from every corner of the country. And sending our kids off to camp and make a ton of memories.

When I was a little girl my family went away every summer, my dad tried to hit a different state each summer, and we always went to Narragansett, Rhode Island, to a place called Peterson's. You know what I loved about Peterson's? It was always so fun filled. Each year the same families went, each year we were in the water all the time and each year we sat around a huge table and ate meals as one big family. I only saw these kids once a year for 8 weeks, but when we saw each other it was magical. In the evening we would have campfires on the beach and eat thin raisin cookies. I can almost taste them mixed with the salt from the ocean. It was a magical time in my childhood. Aunts, Uncles, Cousins all getting together, remembering our ties.

Sometimes it feels to me that we're not always so intentional to make memories these days, and then I'm reassured when I hear of Leslie

Beatson's summer plans. Each year her family meet up with her sisters family on an island and the kids



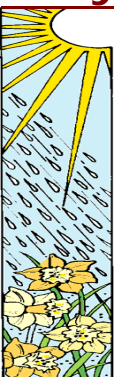
play all summer long. While many of my childhood recollections have faded, the desire to connect with my family has never diminished. Community Congregational is God's family. Some of the same things that I recall about my biological family also apply to my spiritual family at church. Let me list them for you:

- ⇒ God's family should take advantage of the summer months to connect and build closer ties. During the course of a year members of a church family can get detached from others in the same family.
- ⇒ God's family needs to eat together often and talk about their lives in an atmosphere of love and trust. Summer is a time to build our relationships.
- ⇒ God's family needs to do family business together so that everyone remembers what is important. Serving together happens in summer.
- ⇒ God's family needs to care for the children, elderly, sick, weak, and lonely of their ranks. Love heals all wounds.
- ⇒ God's family ought to have fun together.

Let's make some "family" memories this summer...together, let's plan a picnic or two, let's go out and play together in the sunshine and finally let's continue to stay in touch this summer. You matter to me!

Blessings,
Pastor Renie

Prayer Requests



Peg Stone
Helen Nelson
Alice Burgess
Sione Atuatasi
Edward Olm (Dale's father)
Jennifer Green, her daughters Elizabeth, Victoria and Isabella



Prayers for our leaders
Prayers for all families struggling with pain and separation
Prayers for all our military personnel
Prayers for our planet
We pray for all those affected by war, and we pray for peace

Community Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

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Phones with Caller ID blocking -
Please dial * 8 2 ENTER before dialing.



Remember Our Homebound Members

If you know of someone in our church family who needs a visit, please let Pastor Renie or the Pastoral Care Team (Anna Atuatasi) know. We don't always hear about a need right away. Thanks!



- Jun 2 Briseño, Isabelle*
- Jun 2 Briseño, Sophia*
- Jun 4 Hamm, Hilary
- Jun 6 Cooper, Brent*
- Jun 6 Daffern, Kyle
- Jun 12 Kravets, Rob*
- Jun 16 Daffern, Natalie
- Jun 16 Schaffer, Larry*
- Jun 20 Wingert, Hope*
- Jun 23 Gauger, Hal*
- Jun 26 Cook, Annette*
- Jun 28 Cooper, Swinder
- Jun 29 Hammonds, Maryo*
- Jun 30 Burgess, Alice

ENJOY THE BRIDGE ONLINE!

We hope you enjoy the Bridge Newsletter! Would you like to read the newsletter by e-mail? If so, send your e-mail address to us at bridge@cccucc.org and save a tree!

Lost a past issue? Look it up on the web at www.cccucc.org.

Written contributions for future editions can be sent to revrenie@cccucc.org (deadline is the 20th of each month) or placed in the church secretary's in-box and marked "Bridge". All material submitted is subject to editing for space and content.



COMMUNITY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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2014

