



The Bridge

September 2014 | Community Congregational Church UCC

www.cccucc.org

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

2
10:00 AM Women's Coffee
7:00 PM Rolling Tones Rehearsal

4
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

7 10:00 AM Communion Sunday
Worship
12:00 PM Middle and High School Youth Group



9
10:00 AM Women's Coffee
7:00 PM Rolling Tones Rehearsal

11
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

13
8:30 AM Feeding Our Friends of the Street

14
10:00 AM Sunday Morning
Worship
12:00 PM Middle and High School Youth Group

16
10:00 AM Women's Coffee
6:45 PM Church Council
7:00 PM Rolling Tones Rehearsal

17
12:00 PM Benicia Forum
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

21
10:00 AM Sunday Morning
Worship
12:00 PM Middle and High School Youth Group

23
10:00 AM Women's Coffee
7:00 PM Rolling Tones Rehearsal

25
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

26
Bring Your Own Welcome (BYOW) See page 5

27
Building & Grounds Fellowship Day!

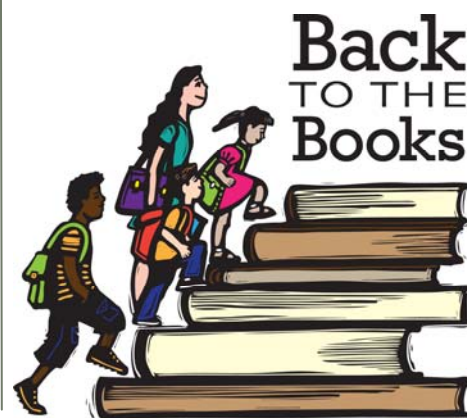


28
10:00 AM Sunday Morning
Worship
12:00 PM Middle and High School Youth Group

29
30
10:00 AM Women's Coffee
7:00 PM Rolling Tones Rehearsal

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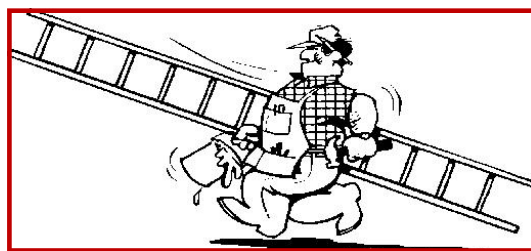


Campus Enhancement

Jim Lessenger

Here's the latest....

1. The leaning pine tree has been removed and helps the view. Greg arranged this.
2. The railroad ties were removed with the help of Genesis House. The museum accepted them as they have plans for a picnic area to be constructed in two years or so. That saves us \$21,000 in destruction and recycling fees.
3. The trimming of the plants is completed with the help of a lot of people.
4. The application for a construction permit is before the City Planning department. The architect and general contractor are working with the Planning Department to iron out all the problems. So far, it looks like the solution will actually save us some money and make construction easier.
5. We expect to start construction in the middle of September and expect it to last until the end of November. Until then it is best to postpone as many events as possible.
6. Delays are to be expected. Also expect dirt, inconvenience and noise.



I'm late! I'm late!

Parking Lot Closurenot the Church

The weekend of Sunday August 31st the parking lot is still open. This is an exciting time in the life of the church, in a few weeks our parking lot will have had a much needed face lift. Meanwhile it will be necessary to park elsewhere as the construction goes on. (And that does not mean staying at home). We will need to park on the street. Entrance to the church will only be from the street. Walking down the sidewalk between the C E building and the Sanctuary and then through the choir room.

Plans for your assistance have been made for Sunday morning. At curb side in front of the church will be a drop off point for those who would have difficulty walking. A Greeter will be waiting to assist you on your way to service. Drivers who have dropped off passengers, will then proceed to park along west second, west M and Raymond streets. Those who cannot make the walk from their car, a ride will be provided. Others are encouraged to walk the short distance.

After service a ride to your car for those who need assistance will be provided. And drop off passengers will be waiting for you to pick them up.

Thank you for understanding the need for alternate parking. If you can help with these plans as a greeter or driver or have your own thoughts about parking.....please email them to sendmail2jackie@sbcglobal.net or agbook@lessenger.net.

Weekend In The Trees 2014

Keith Read

September 26—29

Weekend in the Trees Registration Open!

Our theme for Weekend In The Trees ("WITT") last year was "Oh, The Places We Will Go!" - a wonderful months-long series of inspirations led by Pastor Renie based on Dr. Seuss stories. Perhaps this year we should paraphrase the theme and call it "Oh, How Time Flies" for it is almost time for another retreat. This year WITT will be held the last weekend of September from Friday, September 26 through Sunday, September 28.

Our updated [WITT Registration Form](#) can be found by clicking on the WITT link on our church homepage: www.cccucc.org. WITT is always open to all of our members and friends and this year we return to our traditional format of 3 days and 2 nights at its new location at Monte Toyon Camp in Aptos (near Santa Cruz). Monte Toyon is a beautiful camp set in a redwood forest. We found it to be a very well maintained camp, with a hard working staff who works diligently to take care of all aspects of the camp. There are even upgraded sleeping facilities (carpeted cabins!), convenient restrooms and showers, paved trails throughout, numerous fire pits scattered throughout the camp, a level ping pong table with a light for nighttime contests, a large meadow for games and outdoor activities, to name just a few features.

Oh, and let's not forget about the wonderful home cooked meals, including our traditional turkey dinner on Saturday night! Monte Toyon also has a beautiful amphitheater (with its own fire pit) hidden just steps away from the Dining Hall where we will hold the always entertaining Saturday night skits.

Many more details about WITT 32 will follow over the next few weeks, but please mark your calendars now for these dates and plan on joining your fellow members and friends at camp this year. If you do, you will be able to find out What It's All About - you won't be disappointed!!



Music Matters

Barbara Hamm



A song from my youth—"I'm All Shook Up!"—took on new meaning today after the 6.0 earthquake that did major damage in Napa, Vallejo, American Canyon, and other places in Northern California today. My own home was not damaged, but the homes of other folks in our church were. Our prayers are for the families and businesses in Vallejo and American Canyon and Napa who had major damage. Pastor Renie emphasized in her August 24 sermon that we live in community, that we are interconnected, and that we need each other. I wish that the fellow feeling exhibited by people for total strangers in an event like this could be extrapolated to a larger canvas—one that goes beyond our own church and community to see each other as human beings worthy of God's love and thus our own.

Choir rehearsals resume **Thursday, August 28, from 7-8:15 pm.** We welcome all returning members and invite any new ones who might be interested in singing with the choir as a means of service. The schedule of special music from the end of August through the end of September is as follows:

- Aug. 31 – "Seek the Lord," Vocal Solo – Nancy Gilman
- Sept. 7 – "Pray for Peace"
- Sept. 14 – "Amazing Grace"
- Sept. 21 – "Lord, Lead Us Day by Day"
- Sept. 28 – Vocal Solo, Barbara Hamm



Choir Practice Resumes

As your Minister of Music, I will be attending the Choristers Guild Fall Workshop this coming Saturday, Aug. 30, at the Walnut Creek United Methodist Church. I will be away accompanying the DOC/UCC Women's Retreat at Mission Springs (in the Santa Cruz area) Sept. 12-14. The following week I will be flying to Dallas to attend my annual sisters' week celebration with my four sisters, at the end of which I will go to Wichita, Kansas, to present two workshops on Music for the Small Church at the Annual Gathering of the Kansas-Oklahoma UCC Conference on Sept. 19-20. Bruce Smith has graciously agreed to accompany the CCC worship services and the choir on the Sundays of Sept. 14 and 21. Thank you, Bruce! After these two weekends, I'll be staying put for quite a while.

Harvest Festival

Save the date-10/26/2014

The date for the Harvest Festival has been set for October 26, 2014. CCCUCC will have a family fun day that will include pumpkin painting, games, costumes and family fun for all. Like all of the activities of our church there will also be good food and great fellowship.

Tracy Daffern and Deanna Mitchell will devise games again this year. Those that attended last year will remember those two came up with some very creative games. Cannot wait to see what they have in store for us this year.

More Information will be forthcoming closer to the date. Just letting you know to save the date-10/26/2014 for our very own Pumpkin Patch and Harvest Festival.



Welcome and Growth

Dale and Debi Stanley

“Bring Your Own Welcome” (BYOW)!

7-9pm last Friday of every month except when other church events supersede

The Welcome and Growth is planning an activity to begin this month. Please join us!

Purpose: To extend our welcome activities beyond Sunday worship and fellowship times

When: Beginning on August 29th, and every Friday evening of every month to be “BYOW Night” (“Bring your own Welcome”) which will be a very informal game night (board games, etc.) for everyone and anyone.

Place: Fellowship Hall

BYOF: “Bring Your Own Friends” (please invite your church and non-church friends; assure them they will be warmly welcomed and not proselytized, etc.)

Time: 7-9pm last Friday of every month except when other church events supersede

Format:

- **BYOG** “Bring Your Own Games”
- **BYOS** “Bring Your Own Snacks” (Welcome and Growth Committee will supply cold drink refreshments)

Note: Please contact Welcome and Growth chairs, Debi or Dale Stanley with questions, suggestions, or if you need a ride.

No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey,



Stewardship

Carla Goad and Nancy Aldritt

Greetings! Well it has been an exciting month for us with our new Stewardship commitment. We have been learning much about our new role and talking to others who have walked this path before us. So much wisdom in this Congregation!! October 19, 2014 will be our Fall Auction date and we know it will be a success whether we are in campus construction or awaiting the ground breaking. We have an amazing Congregation and we are certain that all will fall into place exactly as it should for this event. We will be circulating a sign-up sheet and other information during the month of September and October and encourage you all to consider donating items or services for the Auction.

I have to admit that I first started composing this article for the Bridge while I lay in bed following the big quake this past Sunday. You see, it rattled me a bit and I had a hard time going back to sleep. Nancy and I were very fortunate that we had no damage and we send our prayers and support to those who did. While Nancy and the rest of our animal family (Lily and Jay) were able to return to sleep, I lie awake with lots of thoughts running through my head. I wondered if there was anyone else up so I checked in with my social media folks. I instantly did not feel as lonely for a longtime friend posted, "Holy cow! Earthquake woke me out of a sound sleep. Hope everyone is okay." The next post I read was from our pastor. Instantly, I relaxed in the thought, ahhh, she's awake too. Little by little there were more folks from our faith community sharing their experiences, wishes and hopes for safety, reporting and sharing photos of damage and of course a bit of humor. Even though our communication was through gadgets, in short sentences and emoticons, at 3:40 a.m. I was able to connect with my faith family and feel comfort and connection, without having to wake up people in my life who were fortunate enough to return to sleep.

So my article began in my head with a thank you to Community Congregational Church, for without being a part of this congregation, I would not have as many social media friends and certainly not folks who lived so close and were up in the wee hours of the morning. Each of you brought me much comfort in your sharing and posting. This comfort was multiplied when we were sitting in the pew later in the morning. We were, a bit tired, but so grateful to see many of you and hoping that those who were not there were okay. For I understand, in a new way, how we are all a part of the family and we miss you when you are not there. Hope to see you soon!

Christian Education

Tanya Nemcik

Interested in helping out with Sunday School?

Every first Sunday of the month we will meet after fellowship in the Sunday school classroom. We will put the lessons together for the month and organize the crafts to do. We can discuss the agendas and any additions or changes. Have any suggestions? This is a great opportunity to hear from parents or children.



Pastor's Ponderings



Do you ever feel like you just can't keep up? That's me lately. And it really affects those around me. Deadlines come and go and I miss out on important dates. The Bridge is one of those dates. So Leslie Lessenger and I now have agreement, if I can't get my article into the Bridge in a day I publish without my article, instead of holding up the bridge.

For those of you who wonder what I might do besides preach on Sunday, here's one week's schedule:

Sundays

Worship
Preach
Greet
Fellowship
Youth Group

Monday

Press
Website update
Bulletin appointments

Tuesday

Foodbank Meeting
Dominoes with dogs
Bulletin printing
Outside sign
Chase the ants
Start sermon
Budget & finance

Rev. Renie Stamm-Kirk

Wednesday

Non Profit's meeting
Slide show
Sermon Prep
Meet with bride and groom
Meet with family about funeral

Thursday

News for the Pews
Print flyers for labyrinth
Common Ground Meeting
PPRC

Friday (usually my one day off)

Game Night (or other fun)

Saturday

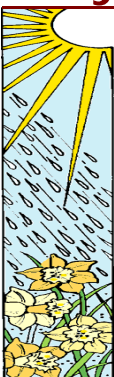
Feeding our friends)
Work on sermon prep
Take Youth to event

This is a very typical week with an average of 11 calls 5 private conversations, 2 meetings with people who I've never met before and will never come to our church. No wonder I'm busy... And each week is different, I am grateful to Donna Hill and Pam Martin and Nora Gauger who pick up some of the secretarial duties. And to Nancy Gilman who does so many odd jobs around the church. As we approach the holiday season I ask for your prayers and your patience.

With Love and Gratitude

Pastor Renie

Prayer Requests



Peg Stone

Alice Burgess

Jennifer Otero

Edward Olm (Dale's father)

Jennifer Otero, 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

PO Box 187
1305 West 2nd Street
Benicia, CA 94510

Phone: 707-745-0674
Fax: 707-745-0674
www.cccucc.org

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!



- Sep 10 Mautz, Margaret
- Sep 15 Lawrence, Jackie*
- Sep 16 Benton, Graham*
- Sep 16 Read, Kristen*
- Sep 17 Cox, Greg*
- Sep 18 Updyke, Karen*
- Sep 20 Smith, Ron*
- Sep 22 Dolter, Bill*
- Sep 25 Hamm, Barbara*

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.



2014



SEPTEMBER

COMMUNITY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Located at: 1305 West Second Street
For mailing use: PO Box 187
Benicia, CA 94510