



The Bridge

December 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 AM Women's Coffee
**7:30 PM Rolling
Tones at Baskin
Robbins**



8
8:30 AM Feeding
Our Friends of the Street

7
10:00 AM Sunday Morning
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

12
7 PM



13
**8:30 AM Feeding
Our Friends of
the Street**



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

16
10:00 AM Women's Coffee
6:45 PM Church Council

18
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

21
10:00 AM **Youth Christmas
Pageant**

23
10:00 AM Women's Coffee

24
7:00 PM
Christmas Eve
Service



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

30
10 AM Women's Coffee

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**Save the date!!!
CCCUCS Annual Crab Feed
Friday February 27, 2015**



Campus Enhancement

Jim Lessenger

The Church prevailed before the Historic Structures Preservation Commission in the appeal by Happy Hearts of the City's approval of our construction plans.

We are now working on lighting.

The architect has located a lighting system that puts us in back on budget, looks better, and works better. Now we must work through the process with the City and the Contractor to get approval and a new bid.

We will meet on Dec 7 to consider those items.



Welcome and Growth

Dale and Debi Stanley



"Bring Your Own Welcome" (BYOW)!

Next game night is January 30

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: The last 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.

Music Matters

Barbara Hamm

Advent – the word refers generally to something that is on the way, something about to arrive. In the Christian calendar it marks the beginning of the new liturgical year, focusing on the time leading up to the birth of the promised Messiah. We join with other Christians around the globe to celebrate the time of waiting and the arrival of the promised one in song, story, and ritual.

ADVENT and CHRISTMAS MUSIC at CCC:

Nov. 30:

Gathering Music – Jazz Gorilla

Ministry of Music – “Emmanuel, God with Us,” Sanctuary Choir

Dec. 7:

Gathering Music – Instrumental Ensemble

Ministry of Music – “I Hear the Prophet Callin’,” Sanctuary Choir, with Dean Gilman, soloist

Dec. 14:

Gathering Music – The Rolling Tones Handbell Choir

Special Music: “Mary, Did you Know?” Rolling Tones

Dec. 21:

Gathering Music – Christmas Orchestra

Christmas Pageant, youth and children – with carols sung by the congregation

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve

Gathering Music – Instrumental Ensemble

Scripture, Carols, and Solos

Dec. 28:

Gathering Music – Deborah Shanks and Leslie Lessenger

Ministry of Music – “Gesu Bambino,” Vocal Duet, Deborah Shanks and Cholé McGraw, with Leslie Lessenger, flute

I am grateful to Deborah Shanks for accompanying worship and providing special music on Dec. 28 while I celebrate Christmas with my daughter and granddaughter at the Moore family gathering in Carson City, NV.



Is Your

Pledge

Up to Date?

Special Events



***Homegrown Christmas Concert** – Friday, Dec. 12, 7 pm

with adult and children's choirs, handbells, vocal and instrumental soloists, a reading, and a carol sing-along accompanied by the Christmas Orchestra. Come and bring your family and friends. Donation to the church concert series – if and as you can.

***Christmas Eve Service** – Wednesday, Dec. 24, 7 pm, with Scripture, choirs, soloists, carol singing and a Christmas reflection



Jazz Gorilla is sharing their ministry of music in a number of places this

Christmas, playing on Thanksgiving Day for a dinner for Seniors in Vallejo, for the Disciples of Christ International Bazaar in Vallejo on Dec. 6, for our CCC Christmas concert, for our friends on the street on Dec. 13, an Emeritus Center (Merrill Gardens) Concert on Dec. 22 at 3 pm, and on Christmas Day.

The Rolling Tones will reach out to the community at three events:

*Baskin Robbins – Tuesday December 2, 7:30 PM (weather permitting) Come join us!

*Rancho Benicia holiday gathering – Wednesday December 10

*Second Saturday in the park – Saturday, December 13 (weather permitting)



Pastor's Ponderings

Rev. Renie Stamm-Kirk



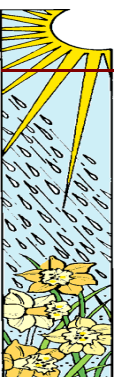
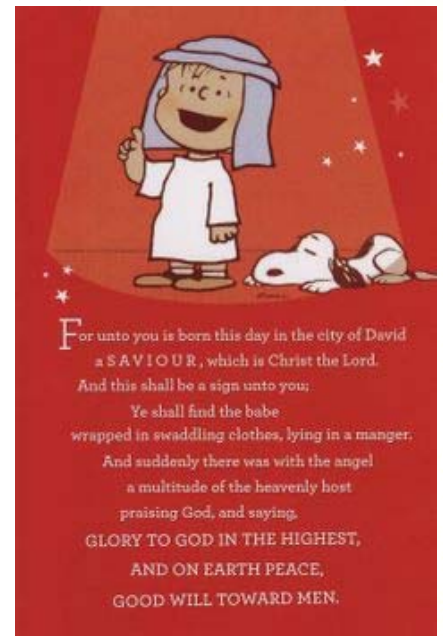
Momma always told me there be days like this.... Do you know that quote? I do, my mom had what I fondly refer to as "mommysms." You know the things your mom tells you and you think to yourself at the time "When will I ever use that?" My mom had a million of them, or so it felt like. One that I remember every single day of my life is "Don't ever leave the house without clean underwear, and make sure it's right side out..." When I was old enough to ask, "what's that one about mom?" She'd remind me that you never know what the day will bring, suppose just suppose you get in an accident, you'll want clean undies." And so every morning I am mindful to be sure they are right side out and always clean. But my mom's concern was basically what Jesus tells us in the ending of the Gospel of Matthew, you never know when God will return, is your house in order? Are your lamps lite? Are you ready?

"Are you all ready for Christmas?" a minister friend of my asked me yesterday. With the cards, the decorating, baking, and shopping, not to mention the sermons still to do, the answer is absolutely "NO." Yet when I take a minute to let the question sink deeper into my soul, the answer is more like Mary's response to the angel Gabriel. Mary said, "Let it be with me according to your word." As I utter this, I mean accepting the Christmas God gives - the birth of my infant Redeemer, cradled in my heart. Each day I do an Advent devotional on line with my clergy colleagues, this affords me the occasions for prayer and this weekend's concert on Friday,

feeding on Saturday and worship and Pagenant rehearsal on Sunday all serve as preparation for the inward and spiritual Christmas. Christmas time is a good time to think about being ready, we rush here and there, always trying to please. You know, did we get just the right present for our loved ones? Will our holiday party be better than last year? Will I have enough time to take in the lights,, the music, the food and everything else? I think the message should be am I kind enough, have I been gentle enough, do I listen enough, do I give of my self enough? Am I ready for the Christ Child to come again? Would I recognize him if I tripped over him in the street? Would I know that I am ready? Is my house in order? Well I've done a lot of preparations to get ready... I've prayed, I've listened, I've served, and I've rested. Yup I think I might just be ready for the Christ's redeeming love to be born again in me and in the world... My prayer for each of you is may you and yours have a blessed and safe Christmas and New Years and I pray our paths cross!

Blessings,

Pastor Renie



Prayer Concerns

Alice Burgess
Barbara Hamm
Carla Goad & Nancy Aldritt
Peg Stone
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

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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 (Jennifer Otero) know. We don't always hear about a need right away. Thanks!



- Dec 8 Briseño, Lisa
- Dec 11 Sayles, Jackie*
- Dec 12 Cunningham, Darryl
- Dec 18 Wong, Jan*
- Dec 19 Lawrence, Jack
- Dec 21 Sirota, Kay*
- Dec 22 Eubank, Jonathan
- Dec 27 Hutchins, Pat*
- Dec 28 Thomas, Emma

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 DECEMBER

COMMUNITY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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