



The Bridge

May 2015 Community Congregational Church UCC

www.cccucc.org

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

Rev. Renie's
Office Hours

Tues & Thurs. by appointment

Happenings

3

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

5

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

7

7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

9

8:30 AM Second Saturday —
Feeding our friends on the street

10

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

12

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

14

7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

17

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

19

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

21

7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

24

10:00 AM **YOUTH SUNDAY!!**
12:00 PM Middle and High School
Youth Group

26

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

28

7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

30

9:00 AM **Building and
Grounds Work Day**

31

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

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Tell Our Story:
What we hope?
Why we give?

Community Congregational Church, UCC
Stewardship Campaign 2015-2016

Campus Enhancement

Jim Lessenger

The construction phase of the parking lot project is done. I am very pleased with the project and the construction company went way beyond the contract.

The first phase was planning and the second was the construction.
Next, we need to receive and install the lights.

At the same time, Greg Cox is working on the landscaping. He wants to tie down a plan, install pipes, and place plants. That will take some, time so he plans to put down mulch.



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER

Music Matters

Barbara Hamm

May is a wonderful time to celebrate—the days continue to lengthen, colorful buds and flowers are popping out all over, and we celebrate the risen Christ within and without. I personally have so much to celebrate and am thrilled to be back in worship making music and working with the choir again. My surgery was successful, and I am so grateful to all of you for the meals you provided as well as for cards, calls, and visits. I truly felt supported and cared for by my church family—my sincere thanks to all of you. A particular Thank You to Deborah Shanks for carrying on with the music in my absence.

Music in Worship for the month of May:

May 3: “Sanctuary” – Sanctuary Choir and Congregation

May 10: “The 23rd Psalm” – Sanctuary Choir
“A Mother’s Love” – Girls’ Choir

May 17: “Revealed in You” – Sanctuary Choir

May 24: PENTECOST service conducted by the Youth

May 31: “We Are the Hands of Christ” – Sanctuary Choir

Rehearsals for May:

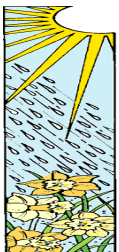
Girls’ Choir: April 26 and May 3 – preparing to sing for Mother’s Day on May 10



Celebrate!

Something to think about....As Pastor Renie recently shared, we are... that church who feeds our friends on the streets; that church who replaces Christmas poinsettias with socks and Easter lilies with household supplies for transitioning age foster youth; that church who joins Common Ground; that church who answers calls from suicidal community members questioning God’s love; that church with a hand-bell choir; that church with talented musicians; that church who shares joint ministry with a new full-time pre-school; that church that does and can do so much more. We are a growing church who dreams of an Associate Pastor and Office Manager to support the daily presence of CCC UCC; who dreams of supporting our children’s and youth programs; who dreams of a safe and welcoming campus; who dreams of ending hunger and homelessness; who dreams of equality; who dreams of peace; and so much more.

Prayer Concerns



Alice Burgess
Jennifer Otero,
her daughters Elizabeth, Victoria and Isabella
Adam Olm
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

Stewardship

Carla Goad and Nancy Aldritt

We are delighted to be kicking off the Annual Stewardship campaign from mid-April to mid-May, in advance of our new fiscal year which begins July 1. This is the time of year where we dream about what CCC UCC is and hopes to be as we grow and change. As we reflect on our history and our future, we kept coming up with the words:

Tell Our Story: What we hope? Why we give?

A place of belonging, connection with others, laughter, support in times of hardship, praise for God's abundance, good food, warm fellowship, inspiring music, joyous celebration, spiritual sustenance, drawing near to the Spirit's presence, a church experience for the children, Jesus' challenge to walk in his footsteps, service to the homeless and needy, strength to rely on throughout the chapters of our lives... There are as many reasons why we join in the community of faith at Community Congregational Church as there are individuals who are blessed by it.

Why are you here? What gifts do you receive from this place? What is your hope for the future? How do you hear God's voice in the midst of a busy world calling you close, calling you precious and beloved? There is an abundance at Community Congregational which sustains us weekly – can you name what that is for you? We invite you to share your story as we consider what is necessary to sustain this community and its mission, programs and future.

Charles R. Lane writes of six stewardship values which have helped us to think about our relationship to our church community, to God and to pledging or giving. May these values offer you concepts to consider on your path to considering your pledge:

Intentional: To be intentional in our giving is to develop a plan and to live by that plan.

Regular: To be regular in our giving is to establish a pattern in our giving according to our own specific way of receiving income (e.g. weekly or monthly gifts)

Generous: Because God has blessed us so generously, we can give generously to others, especially those in need.

First: When I receive income, my first check is to the church. This ensures I am certain to give to God first and live on the rest versus meeting my needs and wants first and giving God the left-overs.

Proportional: To give proportionally is to give in proportion to the blessings you have received. We have tools to help with this.

Cheerful: The key to being a cheerful giver is to practice the first 5 values.

Admittedly, these are not values that I (Carla) knew about prior to my role in stewardship, but ones that have led me to increase my pledge because I deeply value, have received abundantly and am proud of who we are and what we do at CCC UCC. By pledging according to these values, our church can ABUNDANTLY plan for the missions, ministry and growth of this church.

We are so grateful for all that you have shared of your gifts, time, talent and resources. Whether you have given consistently for years or are thinking of this for the first time, please know we are looking forward to an impactful year full of great things which require a 25% increase in our revenue in the coming year. Please consider what you can to reach our goal. Your commitment of giving can be written on the pledge card and mailed in, placed in the offering plate on Sunday or simply entered through our secure giving link at www.cccucc.org. We will consecrate our

Pastor Ponderings

Ok I just gotta say something!

I've been silent too long and silent equals consent... and I just can't consent to all this stuff about the dying church. I came into ministry in my 40's after a successful career in Corporate America... I came back to church because I was raising a child that I want to be shepherded by a faith community... and I wanted her to grow in faith or doubt and faith again with folks who loved her, not just tolerated her, not just accepted her but out and out loved her. I found a church that did just that, I found a denomination that did just that... and so I turned my life to God in a new way.

Everybody (liberal, progressive, and whatever) are screaming about the death of church. While some of us lead churches that are more alive now then ever... Yes we are in the middle of the reformation once again.... Mainline historians such as Phyllis Tickle and Diana Butler Bass to evangelical historians like Donald Dayton and Scott Thuma, agree we are in the midst of a reformation that is happening all around us. but it does not mean that churches have to die, it means they have to change or die.... and those churches that have been on the forefront of change, those are the churches leading the reformation.

So I just gotta speak up more! I just gotta say I disagree, there are those churches who have changed with time, have returned to mission, above building, have returned to our roots, being church in the world, not just bring the world to church...

I know that the church I am in covenant with is very much ALIVE and young and does not need to be taken off life support, but is life support.

THANK YOU!! For letting me get that off my church and for being such an amazing community!

Blessings,

Pastor Renie



**Community Congregational
Church**

United Church of Christ

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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 know. We don't always hear about a need right away. Thanks!



- May 4 Clements, Joseph Sr.
- May 8 Beatson, Leslie*
- May 9 Stamm-Kirk, Katie*
- May 11 Stamm-Kirk, Renie*
- May 13 Radesky, Jan*
- May 13 Watson, Kathy
- May 15 Benton, Lydia
- May 18 Cooper, Asha
- May 18 Hill, Matthew
- May 27 Blackie, Stuart*
- May 28 Beatson, Jack
- May 28 Radesky, Mike
- May 31 Wong, Gary

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.

