



The Bridge

June 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

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

4
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

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

9
10:00 AM Women's Coffee

11
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

13
8:30 AM **Second Saturday —
Feeding our friends on 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

18
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

19
6:00 PM **Youth Fundraiser
BINGO**

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

23
10:00 AM Women's Coffee
6:45 PM **Church Council**

27
9:00 AM **Building and
Grounds Work Day**



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



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Installation of solar lights

Campus Enhancement

Jim Lessenger

The last item in the construction phase of the campus enhancement project was the lighting.

We received the lights from Greenshine New Energy last week. With the help of the guys from Genesis House we unloaded and uncrated them. The men from Genesis also dug the holes for the battery vaults.

Starting on Friday, May 15, Ken Butler of KButler Electric and his apprentice Jake, assembled the units which consisted of a pole, solar panel, LED light, and light support. Ken then raised the first pole and set it into the bolts embedded in the concrete pedestals.

On Saturday, Ken and Jake raised all ten light poles, including four that were doubles.

Come Monday and Tuesday, Ken and Jake finished securing the poles and placed into the ground the water-tight light vaults. Finally, on Tuesday afternoon the last unit was assembled and wired into a small computer about the size of a cigarette pack. The Church Council enjoyed a show Tuesday night as all the lights came on for the first time.

The lights are solar powered. Energy is stored in a batter contained in a vault buried in the ground. The lights are LED units, which stands for Light Emitting Diodes, small little rectangular chips about the size of pencil eraser. There are about 20 diodes in each light fixture. When not energized, they look like a piece of candy. When energized, they emit bright light. It is amazing.

The solar panels, LED lights, and battery are connected to a control unit. When the power being produced by the solar panels lowers to a few amperes, the LED lights automatically come on. So, there is no need to install a light detector which are known to fail on a regular basis. One less thing to replace, repair, or adjust.

The result is a night light that floods the area beneath the light with bright light, but with little light leakage into the night sky. That will eliminate any problems with the neighbors and during the July 4 celebrations. This technology is literally "cutting edge." It is the first such unit in the Benicia area.

The next phase is the landscaping. Greg is in charge of this and plans three phases: first, the installation of the pipes; second, covering the



Music Matters

Barbara Hamm

The high holy days of Easter have passed, and we are now in the season of Pentecost, the birth of the church—"ordinary time" in the liturgical calendar, between Easter and Advent. So much of our lives is lived in ordinary time, in the seasons between the extraordinary, life-changing mountain-top experiences or the depths of sorrowful ones. I must say, however, that the older I grow, the less inclined I am to regard any day as "ordinary," while the gift of life is mine. Each day is an opportunity in which I appropriate the blessings of water, sunlight, air, and food, and try to turn them to account in what I do with my life.

So each day in the life of the church is an opportunity to grow and learn, to give, to connect at a deeper level with others who are also trying to follow the path of the risen Christ. Most of our days are lived on this plane, in the in-between times of the introspection of Lent, the celebration of Easter, and the mysterious Advent of the Holy One who came here among us. What is ordinary about that?

Special Music in June worship services:

June 7: "Jubilate, Exaltate!" – Sanctuary Choir and the Women and Girls' Chorus.

"Little David, Lift Up your Heart," and "Make a Joyful Noise" - Rolling Tones

This will be a day to lift up and celebrate the power of music in our Christian experience and the gifts of all the musicians among us.

June 14: "We Are the Hands of Christ" – Sanctuary Choir

June 21: "All People Living on the Earth" – Sanctuary Choir and Congregation

"The Lord Bless You and Keep You" – Sanctuary Choir. This anthem is one we traditionally sing every June at the close of our current choir season.

June 28: "Lord of the Dance" – organ and piano duet by Deborah Shanks and Barbara Hamm.

Other special news:

The **Rolling Tones** enjoyed playing for Second Saturday in May. Expect us back in December! We will play in El Sobrante on June 5 for a community concert.

Jazz Gorilla (Shelby Riddle, clarinet; Dean Gilman, bass; Barbara Hamm, keyboard) has been asked to play for the Friday night, June 12, worship service at Annual Gathering. This year's Gathering is being held at a new location, Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park.



Stewardship

Carla Goad and Nancy Aldritt

We are so pleased with the response to the annual campaign - Tell Our Story: What we hope? Why we give? The generosity of those who shared their story with our congregation was important to the campaign and we are most grateful for this gift.

In worship today, Pastor Renie talked about inviting God into our decision making as well as using our head and our heart. This campaign has been a journey which we are most grateful to be a part of this year. We, as new Stewardship Co-Chairs, hoped to be inspiring and to be able to secure the necessary pledges to accomplish the dreams of our congregation. We asked for a 25% increase in pledges to hire staff, grow youth programs and continue the mission and outreach programs of our church.



Many of you have answered this call and we are most grateful. You may always adjust your pledge or consider making one if you have not done so before, simply talk to the Financial Secretary, go on-line at www.cccucc.org or drop a pledge card in the offer plate.

The finance committee in the next month will take the total pledges made by our church to build our budget for the 2015-16 year which begins July 1, 2015. We look forward to what will come and will be certain to invite God into the process at each step of the way. If you would like to talk further about pledging or financial stewardship, please do not hesitate to talk with us we welcome your feedback and suggestions. It is not too late to be a part of supporting this unique and incredible church community we call, Community Congregational Church.



Thank you all for abundant giving.

Another place we could use your gifts and talents is in fundraising discussions. We invite you to join us in talking about fundraisers for our 2015-16 year. **Please join us on Sunday, June 14, 2015 after fellowship.** We know we have many creative people in our congregation and we invite you to come and be a part of the discussion.



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 Ponderings

If I have the office door open I hear them coming and if I don't hear them I can smell them. The smell of sunscreen, hits my nose first before they're laughter hits my ears. Some days its my pup Jessie who spots them... they come down the stairs two by two... always holding hands. They're out on their really big day adventure, some days they go to the labyrinth, some days they go down to the gazebo. Usually they just wander two by two around the parking lot. I hear their teachers coaxing them, come on Johnny, you can do it Annie. Some days there are more than I can count and I can see by the teachers faces they have all been inside for too long. So out they go two by two to explore their world.... In both the Gospel of Matthew and the Gospel of Luke Jesus gathers his disciples and sends them out two by two into the world... Why did Jesus send out the disciples in pairs, rather than individually?

Part of the answer lies in the Jewish tradition of "two witnesses." The Old Testament law (see Deut. 19:15) stipulated that at least two witnesses were needed in order to convict someone of a crime. In the culture of Jesus, this legal requirement also underscored the commonsense idea that two witnesses are more reliable than one. So, when two of Jesus' disciples proclaimed the presence of the kingdom, they would be more likely to receive a hearing. (Of course, it wouldn't hurt their credibility if they cast out demons or healed the sick!)

There may be another reason why Jesus sent out his disciples in pairs. He may have been thinking of the power of shared ministry, the added impact when two or more people work together toward a shared goal. This co-laboring is not only effective, but also reflective of the theological

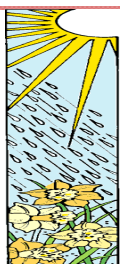
nature of ministry in the era of the new covenant. By sending his disciples out two by two, Jesus foreshadowed the collegiality that would become the hallmark of the Spirit-filled church. Another reason is for mutual encouragement. People, when they are alone and things start going the wrong way, become discouraged. They have no one to turn to for mutual support and encouragement. So he sent them out two by two... I think the Day Care sends them out two by two so they don't get lost and they shepherd each other, Jesus might have thought they needed that too.... When you are in ministry, you know helping a friend or a stranger, isn't it just easier working along side another? Isn't it easier when we face life's challenges to not go it alone?

All this makes me think about how grateful I am to announce Della Olm as our new Youth Leader. Della brings enthusiasm to our youth, brings ideas, and brings her whole self into this ministry and our church is a better place for it. I know my ministry is much better when I have partners like Barbara and Della!

On July 1st I will take my leave from you all for two months while I have total knee replacement, I am grateful to the Rev. Susan Meeter, Barbara, Della and for shepherding CCCUCC in my absence!! Join them, help them, travel with them!!! And please remember to take care of each other....

Blessings, Pastor Renie

Prayer Concerns



*Pastor Renie
Alice Burgess
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 know. We don't always hear about a need right away. Thanks!



- Jun 2 Briseño, Isabelle*
- Jun 2 Briseño, Sophia*
- Jun 2 Green, Elizabeth
- Jun 4 Hamm, Hilary
- Jun 6 Cooper, Brent*
- Jun 6 Daffern, Kyle
- Jun 9 Tubiello, Jen
- Jun 12 Kravets, Rob*
- Jun 16 Daffern, Natalie
- Jun 16 Schaffer, Larry*
- 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.



2015



COMMUNITY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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