



Faith Community United Church of Christ

Dialog

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Scott Kaufman, *Pastor* • Mel Barrios, *Certified Lay Minister* • B.J. Lord, *Editor-Secretary*

JANUARY 2012



Pastor's Corner

Dear Faith Folks,

We can all rejoice, we made it through the Christmas season and we made it to 2012. Congratulations to all of you and to myself as well. So what about the coming year? Twenty twelve is a blank canvas for each of us that is not yet painted. We can paint any picture we want to on it. We can paint a very pastoral scene with cattle grazing in the pasture field with children playing games in the yard while parents look on lovingly. We can also paint a very dark and foreboding picture with dark clouds and lots of rain, and sad faces. We, of course, can paint anything in between the happy pastoral scene and the sad depressing picture.

Some people may say God dictates what each of our pictures for 2012 will look like because he is in charge. Well, God may be in charge, but he has given each of us free will and the freedom to paint our own picture. God has given us abilities and gifts to use as we wish. We have minds that

are different from anyone else's, so we think differently than anyone else. What one person thinks is a good idea another person may think is foolish. We have eyes that are different than anyone else's, so we see things differently than anyone else. What one person may consider beautiful another person may consider plain.

Our ears are also unique to each of us. One song a person listens to may feel inspired; another person may listen to the same song and feel it's dull and boring. My point is that God wouldn't have given us all these unique gifts and talents, then not expected us to use them.

So with all of your unique abilities and talents, what type of picture do you want painted for your 2012 life portrait? Your canvas is blank. Your paint brush is poised and dripping with paint. Your abilities and talents are waiting for you to put them into action. You

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Pastor's Corner

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January Birthdays

HAPPY BIRTHDAY:

- Jan. 10 — Eleanor Huss
- Jan. 10 — Matthew Utter
- Jan. 19 — Harold Creswell
- Jan. 23 — Helen Shearon
- Jan. 24 — Carol Kaufman
- Jan. 29 — Michelle McIntire

decide what you want to happen and what you want to accomplish in the year 2012. My wish for you is; may all your hearts desires be painted on your canvas, and may all your desires be blessed by God. May one year from now God our Father say to you "Well done my good and faithful servant".

Happy Painting,
Pastor Kaufman



Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 29, 2012

*Following services and
potluck luncheon*

New Life



The meeting will consist of regular business, approval of the budget for 2012, and approval of the committee reports for 2011.

One issue will be presented in a survey manner. The congregation will be asked to give us your opinion on the running of the library for 2012. You will be asked to select from three choices.

A. Continue as it is without any changes.

B. Change it to an "Honor System" where the shelves continue to contain all the current selections, no new materials added except through donation, no checking in or out of books. Use them as you like and re-shelf them when you're done.

C. Get rid of the library entirely and use the space for something else.

Think about what you would prefer. We will follow the selection that gets the most votes.

Other business that may come up in the meantime will also be dealt with at this meeting.



Prayer Requests

Please remember the following people in your prayers this month:

Jackie Phillips (friend of Scott Kaufman)
Friends of David Barboza:
Mrs. Walker
Shawn Walker
Cheryl Chesney Walker
Dorothy Einsel
Peggy Walters
John and Inez Reichard
Eleanor Huss
Helen Shearon



We don't have updated information for the January Good Bunch gathering yet. It will be on Tuesday, January 10, but location is yet to be announced. Watch the weekly bulletin and the hallway bulletin board for reservation sign-up sheet. Harold and Donna Creswell will be the hosts.

Sign-Up Sheets

The new sign-up sheets for coffee hour, bulletin sponsorship, and altar flowers have been posted on the hallway bulletin board.

Directory Update

Please update your directories with this new address change:

Florence Pohlman
39004 Johnnycake Ridge Road
Willoughby Hills, Ohio 44094

Offering Envelopes

The offering envelopes for 2012 are on the table in the entry. If you haven't picked up your box yet, please stop and find the box with your name on it. Thank you.



Thank you to all of the congregation for the end-of-year gifts that you have given to the staff members. They are greatly appreciated.



The worship leaders for January are:

Jan. 1	Matthew Utter
Jan. 8	Linda Baker
Jan. 15	Mary Anderson
Jan. 22	Brian Utter
Jan. 29	Roger Reese
Feb. 5	Peg Knapp



What is the United Church of Christ?

It has been brought to our attention that many of us do not know much about the history of the United Church of Christ. This is the fourth in a series of articles that we will publish in the *Dialog* each

month. These articles are taken from the booklet "About the United Church of Christ, a guide to more effective church membership."

Your Church Council

THE STATEMENT OF FAITH*

It sums up the beliefs of the U.C.C.

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

*This version of the Statement of Faith uses inclusive language and was approved by the Executive Council in 1981 for use in the United Church of Christ in connection with the 25th anniversary. Some congregations use the Statement of Faith that was approved by the General Synod in 1958.



FORMS OF WORSHIP

EACH CONGREGATION MAY PRACTICE ITS OWN FORM OF WORSHIP

Many congregations include:

- Statement of Faith
- prayers
- Scripture readings
- sermons
- anthems
- giving thanks.

THE U.C.C. RECOGNIZES 2 SACRAMENTS INSTITUTED BY CHRIST:

Baptism

Through baptism, people are joined in faith with Jesus and accepted into the fellowship of the church.



The Lord's Supper

The breaking of bread and pouring of wine are done in remembrance of Christ's death on the cross and his resurrection.



OTHER SPECIAL CEREMONIES INCLUDE:

- confirmation
- marriage
- ordination
- burial.

The Statement of Faith is a testimony, not a test of faith.



CHURCH LIBRARY
News

We added to the Juvenile book category in December with a set of six volumes in paperback of the adventures of the Sugar Creek

Gang. These books are rated for ages 8 to 12 and may possibly appeal more to young men than young ladies, but you never know.

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We also added a youth book by Max Lucado for the 5 to 8 age group. This book is sort of a take-off on the famous Treasure Island story, but with a Christian message.

In the adult category, we added a work in the Couragous series by Francine Rivers. Rivers writes fiction about real people, but researches her subject well so that it is possible to learn something of the real life of her characters. In this recent addition she addresses the characters who stood next to the big names we all know so well—characters like Aaron, Joshua, Jonathan, and Barnabus.

All the new books can be found in the library. Check them out and enjoy.

The Good Bunch

at First Baptist Church, Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2011, Sylvia Loe, hostess



Special Music for the Faith Family Christmas Party service



The Chimes Choir perform, followed later in the service by the newly-formed Kid's Choir.

A Faith Family Christmas



Poinsettias surround the altar with a splashy show of color.



The Faith family potluck luncheon



*All photos
in this issue
by
Joe Kowalski*



The tree surrounded with the presents prepared for the mission families this year.

The children visit with Santa





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