

THE NEWSLETTER

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, HONEOYE, NY 14471



FROM THE NEW CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

It is almost time for Sunday School to begin! I have heard about all the great kids and all the wonderful projects you have accomplished in Sunday School. I can't wait to meet you and your families. My name is Beth Hughes and I hope to introduce myself to you in Church very soon.

The Bible is so special, last year you learned about Noah and Moses and many others from the Old Testament. We are going to continue with the Old Testament until Christmas. As Christmas comes we turn to the birth of Jesus and the New Testament. Through the Bible, the interpretive key to life" we learn life messages in a colorful and spectacular way. What is real courage, what is wisdom? We will go on a Bible Journey through crafts, science, recipes, projects, and discussions that will help us make good choices in today's world. "Bible stories will forever yield riches years later in different life-settings and perplexities".

Hope to see you all very soon--looking forward to helping make Sunday School a fun and enriching experience for all and even, hopefully, some special moments of memory making.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The next Church Council Meeting will be Monday, September 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room.

MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP RESUMES SEPTEMBER 22

On Thursday mornings at the church from 10 to 11:15 am or so, an informal men's group will gather for coffee and discussion in the Church Library. The discussion will be around current events, editorials, internet articles and other interests generated by participants in the group. Come and see. The coffee will be ready. Questions, see Brian.

September 7 from 5-7pm



Spaghetti Dinner

Profits to be donated to

Embrace Your Sisters



News From Brian

September brings with it the beginning of a new program year for us. This year is no exception. I am excited about what is happening in our congregation.

We have a Christian Education Director! As of August 1 Beth Hughes from Livonia (see related article) started working preparing for Sunday School to begin on September 18. She is working with Beth Stowe and others to help get acquainted with the congregation, building resources and what has happened previously. A healthy congregation that will attract new people (with or without children) needs a strong Christian Education program for children and youth. You can help in this vital ministry of this congregation. If you have children, get them here on Sunday. Whether you have children or not, there is a need for adult leadership to help Beth on Sunday. She cannot do it by herself. Also, tell your friends and neighbors about the Sunday School. It is not the same old Sunday School we once knew. We live in a challenging time when we intentionally need to learn about faith in a culture that increasingly finds itself in conflict with the teaching of Jesus.

We will be experimenting with worship this fall. We always have a need for lay readers, a few actors (any age) for skits, and people experienced with digital recording (let me know). Singers and bell ringers are needed for the choirs. If you have ever thought about singing in the choir, give it a chance. If you have sung in the past, consider singing again. We are blessed with many talented musicians but there is always room for one more. Music is vital to healthy and vibrant worship. We will also

have a Sunday evening, once a month, communion service beginning October 2.

In our busy, overscheduled lives our spiritual lives often get squeezed unless we intentionally make room to move on our journeys of faith. On Thursday, September 29 at 7:00 pm we will begin discussing the book, An Altar in the World, Geography of Faith by Barbara Brown Taylor. As you read this newsletter you still have time to order the book and begin reading it. In addition, the next seven sessions of the well received video discussion series. *Living the Questions* will be presented in October and November. We will continue our exploration about what it means to be an Open and Affirming church with more opportunities for learning and discussion.

Tuesday morning Bible Study starts again September 13 and there is always room for one more at the crowded table. Also, there will be opportunities for ministry in our Food Pantry, the Salem Nutrition Center in Rochester and visiting in the name of the congregation.

I believe that the single greatest contribution you can make to the life of this congregation is your presence on Sunday morning. A full congregation on Sunday lifts the heart and soul of everyone present. I hope to see you there because when you are not, you are missed.

Peace, Brian

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

On September 13 the Tuesday morning Bible Study starts up from 10 to 11:30 am. The group looks at the four lectionary texts for the coming Sunday (one of which the pastor's sermon is based upon.) Discussion is informal and everyone's voice is welcomed. Come every week or come when you can.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS FOR SEPTEMBER

September 4

Exod 12:1-14

Psalms 149

Rm 13:8-14

Matt 18:15-20

September 11

Exod 14:19-31

Psalms 114

Rom 14:1-12

Matt 18:21-35

September 18

Exod 16:2-15

Psalms 105:1-6

Phil 1:21-30

Matt 20:1-16

September 25

Exod 17:1-7

Psalms 78:1-4, 12-16

Phil 2:1-13

Matt 21:23-32

HONEOYE COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY "BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAM"

Once again we would like to ask for your support in our "Back to School Program", where we purchase \$25 gift cards for "our kids" to the Shoe Dept. For most of us a new pair of shoes or sneakers for our children for the upcoming school year is something we simply take for granted. However, for many of our clients it proves a huge cost burden that they simply cannot afford.

This program has proven a huge hit with our kids the last 2 years (I get tons of hugs!), and sadly too often, the only opportunity they have to get a new pair of shoes or sneakers. We have many new families this year and many new school age kids, so if you can help us with a monetary donation (can be any amount!!), we'd really appreciate it!

Also, Honeoye Unify is once again supplying the children with school supplies!! Thank you Honeoye Unify!! Thanks, Renee & Tom

SERVING AT SALEM

NO Serving at Salem this month due to Labor Day Holiday.

BOOK STUDY DISCUSSION BEGIN

SEPT.29, 7 PM

Looking for a way to expand your spirituality and look at the world, God and your life through different eyes? Read Barbara Brown Taylor's book entitled, An Altar in the World, A Geography of Fatih. In it she reflects on how simple practices like walking, working or just paying attention give us opportunity to encounter the holy in the small things we do in our everyday experiences. She helps readers to question the conventional distinctions between the sacred and secular, learning that no physical act is too earthbound or too humble to become a path to the divine. The book offers practices that we can develop to become more into touch with God.

As you read the book, select the chapters that you would like to talk about in the fall, bring your observations and your insights and your own experiences.

TELEPHONE MINISTRY

Callers can dial a telephone number and listen to any functions in the sanctuary using the sound system, IE: Sunday worship, weddings, funerals, etc. The equipment operates automatically anytime the sanctuary sound system is used and provides the potential of up to five simultaneous callers. This opportunity is funded by sponsors who pledge to cover the cost of a month; approx \$120. Over the last six months the phone lines have been used consistently. If you are interested in sponsoring a month or part of a month, please contact the church office or any of the Board of Christian Stewardship members. A pledge can remain anonymous. If you would like any additional information on the benefits or the technology of this ministry, please contact Charlie Johnstone.

The number to call to listen is

585-229-2022.



**VISITING ON BEHALF OF THE
CONGREGATION**

Our congregation has a number of people who can no longer come to worship, or participate in the life of the congregation or who are in nursing homes. Visiting people in such situations is an important ministry of the congregation. Would you like to be part of this ministry? Please contact the Pastor by September 25 if you are interested. The Pastor will train people to visit in various situations.



Meals on Wheels

Sept.	5	NO MEALS
	12	Ned & Louise
	19	Kathy
	26	Kerry

Senior Dining

Meals in the dining room run Monday — Thursday serving at 12:00noon. 24 Hour advance reservation required call Dawn DiPilato 944-2836 Mon-Thur. Kitchen phone is 229-2201. All meals are provided through the Office for the Aging of Ontario County.

CHOIR REHEARSAL

Rehearsal will resume on September 11 at 8:30 am. All are welcome!! Please join us.

For more information contact Nancy Pease at 229-2225.

- 1 Erica Orman
- 3 Becky Nilsson, Doris Turner
- 5 Toby Geartz, Calvin P. Bower
- 11 Lydia L. Barnard, Kali Pestle
- 12 Valerie Andrews
- 14 Melinda Geartz
- 15 Jane Plummer, David Makepeace, Calvin C. Bower
- 16 Lorraine Roberts, Christine Morich
- 17 Wende Leonard
- 18 Betty Nolan
- 19 Sandy Walter, Alexandra Gamrod
- 20 Natalie Tompkins
- 21 Wendy Krause, Jeff Brown
- 22 Caitlin Wohlschlegel, Bill Badger, Louise Holmes, Peter Badger, Ryan Andrews
- 24 Daniel Nilsson
- 25 Shawn Roberts, Carol Brown, Greg Andrews
- 26 Katelyn Morich
- 28 Ron Barrett

REPORT FROM GENERAL SYNOD 28

I was blessed again to be a delegate to General Synod 28, of the United Church of Christ, which met in Tampa on July 1-5. This was my fourth synod but second as a delegate. Every General Synod has been a great experience. General Synod 28 was a combination of denominational business, pep rally, revival, education, fun, and inspiration all rolled together. The Spirit of God was indeed present. The theme of the synod was "Imagine What's Possible." I left with a sense of hope and renewed purpose for the United Church of Christ, even with the difficult economic and demographic realities facing the denomination. Highlights for me included syndicated columnist Leonard Pitts address on Saturday that reaffirmed the UCC distinct and important ministry, the passing of the governance restructure, the introduction of new UCC congregations, discussion around the Baptism Formula and the worship services. I also met many old friends, some that I had not seen for years and made some new ones. I even had a chance to talk with Geoffrey Black, the General Minister and President of the UCC early one morning for about 15 minutes. He is a friend of mine and was the New York Conference Minister until two years ago.

The governance issue was the big business item at General Synod. The UCC essentially moved from five boards within the national church (Local Church Ministries, Justice and Witness Ministries, Wider Church Ministries, Office of General Ministries and Executive Council) to one unified board which oversees the business of the whole church which before had separate boards. This new "United Church of Christ Board" would have the responsibilities that these formerly separate boards had. The Covenanted Ministries: Local Church Ministries, Wider Church Ministries and Justice and Witness Ministries would continue in their distinct ministries within the UCC. If you have more questions about this, check out the UCC website or contact me.

One resolution voted down was the proposal of moving General Synod meetings from every

two years as we now have them to every three or four years. There were other resolutions presented. I was assigned the resolution in Support of the Release of Puerto Rican Political Prisoners which passed in the plenary session. The resolution concerning Common Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Baptism brought much discussion both within the hearing and around the edges. For other items and resolutions that were discussed go to the UCC website (<http://www.ucc.org/synod/>).

Started in Hartford four years ago, the practice of devoting one day to sharing and learning continued with Sun Coast Saturday. The theme "Imagine What's Possible" was taken seriously. Leonard Pitts was the opening speaker, followed by a performance by "Nuttin'But Strings" a duo from South Jamaica, Queens (NYC) who started out playing violins in the subways and have won two Emmys. During the day presentations of big ideas and best practices in the arts, finance, justice, leadership, spirituality and worship, technology, youth and young adults and global ministries were presented. One I found fascinating was given by Ann Foerst, a professor at St. Bonaventure, who spoke about how Facebook, instant messaging, etc is changing how people understand themselves and other people.

A new initiative from the national church for UCC congregations is "Mission 1" (<http://www.ucc.org/mission1/>) in which the congregations of the UCC are together challenged together to bring 1,111,111 items of food to stock food pantries, write 11,111 letters to increase food aid and raise \$111, 111 for Neighbors in Need during the first 11 days of November (11-1-11 to 11-11-11). (I hope that our congregation is a part of it.)

Several new people were elected to the leadership. For a quick impression of General Synod go to this website. <http://www.ucc.org/synod/video/wrap-up-video.html#.TicvJ0QusEs.facebook>

Brian

**FOR ALL OFFICES AND BARD MEMBERS
TO CONSIDER**

**Genesee Valley Association
Training for Church Board
Members**



Sunday, Sept. 25, 2011

Union United Church of Christ,
Churchville, NY
1 p.m.

All church board members, deacons, council members, trustees, officers, are invited to attend. Please plan to join us as we explore:

- the joys and challenges of serving on church boards
- the concepts of call, and using gifts.
- covenant, partnership and boundaries for church board members.

12:30 pm Registration and Refreshments

1:00 pm Main session, with PowerPoint, discussion, reflection and song

2:45 pm Closing Prayer. This training is being presented by our Associate Conference Minister for Leadership Development, the Reverend Marian P. Shearer

Thanks to *Our Churches Wider Mission*, this training is being offered at no cost to the participants.

