

**Union Congregational Church**

A United Church of Christ

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**Worship Schedule**

**Fall Schedule Resumes**

**September 11**

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**Sunday, September 4**

8:30 a.m. Worship Service

**Sunday, September 11**

*ReUnion Sunday*

*Return of Two Services*

8:00 a.m. Contemporary Service with Holy Communion

*First Day of Sunday School*

9:30 a.m. Traditional Service with Holy Communion

*Silent Auction Ends*

**Sunday, September 18**

8:00 a.m. Contemporary Service

9:30 a.m. Traditional Service  
*Baby Care Kits Sale*

**Sunday, September 25**

8:00 am Contemporary Service  
9:30 a.m. Traditional Service

**Sunday, October 2**

10:00 a.m. at Green Lake Pilgrim Center with Holy Communion

***Special Points of Interest:***

**Labor Day**

- Last day of summer schedule for the church office.

**Sunday, September 11**

- ReUnion Sunday
- Return of 2 services
- First Day of Sunday School
- 10:30 am Potluck

**Sunday, September 18**

- Baby Care Kits Sale 8:30 am

**Friday, September 30**

- Community Table  
1st Shift 9:45 am—12:30 pm  
2nd Shift 12:30 pm—3:00 pm

**Sunday, October 2**

- Worship Service at the Pilgrim Center 10:00 am

**Mission Spotlight**

**Mission Opportunities in September:**

- **Baby Care Kit Sale**  
Sunday, September 18th  
During the Fellowship Hour
- **Baby Care Kit Donation (through October 2011)**  
Before donating or shopping, please pick up a list of needed baby items, located next to the coffee window - - or access the list on the U-CC website
- **Community Table**  
Friday, September 30th  
Volunteers are needed to serve the meal and donate food (sign-up sheets are in the Fellowship Hall)

***Child off to College?***

Be sure to supply the Church Office with their mailing address so they can receive mailings from the church.



**Mission Statement**

*Love God's Creation-  
Share in Fellowship-  
Live Christ's Example*



## The Spiritual Corner



***From Your Pastor's Pen:*** ***"The torch has been passed to a new generation"*** is famously from JFK's inaugural address. As we all know the Sixties were a time of monumental transitions throughout society. And as history is often understood as circular, it follows, what goes around comes around. So here we are fifty years later finding ourselves living during a time of incredible transition.

JFK's famous words were of course a call to action, a heads up, a clarion call, an energizing and empowering alert, with a wake up and look around and seize the day sort of purpose and punch. I remind you of them now with the same intention, as I strongly believe we have arrived at such a moment in our church's history.

Your Church Council and I recently discussed what many have noticed, we are experiencing what can be called a generational shift within our family of faith. The torch is, indeed *has*, been passed to a new generation. Dozens of members who have been active within our Church, from regular worship to key leadership roles, have relatively recently arrived at the point in life when the passage of years has made it all but impossible to remain engaged in the ways they once dearly loved being. I frequently name many of these beloved elders during our time of prayer. I do so for obvious enough reasons. For untold years of service among us and to the Church they deserve our sincere honor, gratitude and prayers.

Of course we miss them terribly, to say nothing of their many contributions that added great vitality to our common life. Their absence has left a clear void. And that void is now yours--a new generation's—to fill. The future is in your hands. Whatever God's Holy Will is for our Church, it is now yours to discern, yours to embrace, yours to act upon.

Simply, opportunities abound. Stepping into the shoes of those who have gone before us is a tremendous privilege and a gigantic task, to say nothing of it being a truly huge responsibility. Today's stewards are you! People are looking to you for vital and capable leadership. And I know this is not news to you. And I praise God for that, for the passing and the receiving of that torch. Yet, merely having that torch firmly in hand is one thing. Knowing what to do with it, how to share it, how best to shine the light of God with it, how to be able and capable disciples and shepherd to others, is well, another thing entirely; and one that under the best and most blessed circumstances doesn't happen overnight.

The new generation among us will not experience gifts of leadership falling magically from the sky into their laps. Patience and perseverance are required. Our leaders are called upon to hone and refine and develop the necessary skills that will prove true and lasting blessings to the Church. The new generation is to try and try and try again, learning from its mistakes, moving forward with courage and grace, and always living lives that are shining examples of Christ-like service for others to see. We have a light to shine and a ministry setting to shine it in. And for this fantastic inheritance we recognize those many that have served before us and we honor them with our earnest commitment to the Church they first loved and served.

Holding the light of God's torch with you,  
Pastor Mark



***Thought to Ponder:*** Bar Owner Sues Church Over Lightning Strike! Drummond's Bar, Mt. Vernon, Tx, began construction on an expansion of their building to increase business. In response, the local Baptist Church started a campaign to block the bar from expanding with petitions and prayers. Work progressed right up until the week before the grand re-opening when lightning struck the bar and it burned to the ground! The Church folks were rather smug about it until the bar owner sued the Church on the grounds that the Church "was ultimately responsible for the demise of his building, either through direct or indirect actions or means."

In its replay to the court, the Church vehemently denied all responsibility or any connection to the building's demise. The judge read through the plaintiff's complaint and the defendant's reply, and at the opening hearing commented, "I don't know how I'm going to decide this one. But it appears from the paperwork that we have a bar owner who believes in the power of prayer and a Church that doesn't!" Said to be a True Story.



## September Birthdays & Program News



### *Happy Birthday!*



09/01 Vanessa Jaeger, Keaton Southard, Ginger Lemmenes, Dawn Miller  
09/02 Dean Wallendal, Melissa Searvogel, Caleb Pike, Dustin Wallendal, Zachary Leu, Kyle Thomas  
09/04 Camille Berry, Kari Fietz  
09/05 Connie White, Judy Stahowiak, Kreg Deboer, Amber Buchholz  
09/06 Jody Turnes  
09/07 Hailey Russell  
09/08 Rick Hartgerink, Andrew Schlieve, Morgan Schmidt  
09/09 Chris Kamphuis, Gabrielle Lont, Zachary Hartgerink

09/10 Letha Michels, Jayden Schwandt  
09/11 Alesia Miller, Brady Turnes  
09/12 Bill Wiggins, Lexie Gerritson  
09/13 Sharon Peters, Jeff Huenink, Bernada Jaeger, Jeff Duchac  
09/14 Norma Smith, Sally Saduske, Dalton Hupf  
09/15 Kurt Fenrich, Jessica Baker, Ben Vellema  
09/17 Debbie Southard, David Wilson  
09/18 Makenna Kast  
09/19 Bret Jaeger, Kristin Deboer, Brooke Gulke, Emily Smith  
09/20 Rita Schears, Dean Vossekul  
09/22 Shannon Blankenberg, Amber Hubbard,

Mary White  
09/23 Dianne Brown, Kyle Meyer, Kathy Duchac, Wayne Tebeest  
09/24 Brian Nickel, Carley Schmidt, Elzy Cooper  
09/26 Roy Williams, Alysa Pattee  
09/27 Craig Kartechner, Melissa Vande Zande, David Gerritson  
09/28 Alan Clark, Kevin Deboer, Willow Vellema  
09/29 Dean Lenz  
09/29 Vicky Greenfield  
09/29 Joel Schultz, Edward Mischler  
09/30 Marilyn Wojahn, Amanda Henker, Kevin Krohn



### *Treasurer's Report*

As all of you know our economy is...well lets just say not so good right now. As we all struggle at home to live within our means, your Church is attempting the same. That being said, there are 2 very necessary improvements that need to be done and that need your support. #1 - West Doors, I know you have heard about this one over and over again! But, keep those contributions coming. #2 - Our parking has been resurfaced and has new lines painted. Please contribute to this much needed project. One final note, last month \$1,000.00 was borrowed from the revolving loan to help with expenses.



**Heavenly Humor** A senior Church Member kept noticing that the Church Newsletter always had inflated statistics on attendance. This is obviously to please the Bishop who will be reading the material at the Diocesan Office. One day he decided to confront the Vicar on the issue. "Padre, these statistics don't seem right - I'm quite sure last week's attendance was only about 50 but you have put 110 ! How do you explain that?"

The Vicar calmly said 'My dear good man, don't you know we worship with 'Angels and Arch-angels and ALL the company of Heaven' ?



### **Baby Care Mission Kits**

On Sunday, September 18, in lieu of a Food Pantry sale, the Missions Board will be conducting a sale of Baby Care items needed for our mission kits.



### *Women's Fellowship*



The Women's group has decided to continue with our lunch outings instead of going back to our regular schedule. We will be trying new places and some old familiar ones. Anyone interested in joining us is welcome. Come join the laughter and great fellowship these women have to offer. In Sept. we will be going to Sandy's Goose Shot on Thurs, Sept 8. Any questions call Julie Sanders 324-4881

### **Book Club** Book club is open to all women who

enjoy reading. We meet the 4th Tues of each month at 7pm. This month's book discussion is from the book "What is Left the Daughter". We will meet on Sept 27 at 7pm at Jill Vanderkin's house. For more info call Sandra 324-8500.



## Christian Education Corner



### Filled with the Fruit

I am sure many of you have noticed the church Fellowship Hall...it's full of fruit! Many of the children from Union-Congregational and our wider community are also full of fruit; that is they are full of the fruit of the Spirit!

Children spent Friday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, learning about the 9 fruits of the Spirit. Through playing games like *Peaceful Peaches*, *Grapes of Love*, and *Gentle Fruit Toss*, children learned about the fruits of *love, peace, and gentleness*. In crafts, they learned more about the fruit *joy*, by making placemats, which will be given to the residents of the Christian Living Center, and they made reusable shopping bags with all the fruit of the Spirit written on it as a reminder to practice their fruits. Discovery time was really COOL, literally! The children practiced the fruit of *patience* by making homemade ice cream. They loved it! And because it took time to make their treat they learned how patience is often necessary in achieving the joys of life. Through an experiment with popcorn kernels, they learned about the importance of *self-control*. During snack time and lunch they practiced *kindness and goodness* by taking their turn in line, helping clean up and even making new friends! And *love* was learned through the greatest story of all, the story of Jesus' life, teachings and sacrifice.

Now you may wonder if children really do learn from all this fun stuff and I will tell you they sure do! After asking a 5 year-old little girl at the end of the day what she learned, her answer was this, "God lives in my heart and when I show my fruit, people can see God."

A HUGE thank you goes out to all those that supported the VBS program through prayer, with contributions, took a day off of work, stepped away from their busy schedules, or just wanted to spend time helping the children of our community grow closer to Christ. Because of YOU, and there were many, who showed their fruit, that fruit has multiplied a hundred fold. Thank you and God Bless.



**Register Early for Sunday School** You can now register for Sunday school online before the 11<sup>th</sup> of September, or you may fill out a registration form anytime by stopping by the church and picking up a form. They can be found on the table by the kitchen. Even if you have done this in the past, it helps us have current information on your child and make any changes or corrections necessary. Thank you and we look forward to seeing your child again this fall!



## **First Day of Sunday School** **Sunday, September 11** **at 8:30 a.m.**



**It's Confirmation Time!** Is your child entering 8th grade this year? Have they missed the program in the past? Then we would like to invite them to join us in the U-CC Confirmation Program. Call Heather Vanderkin at 296-4110 for more details.



### **ReUnion Sunday Church Lunch/Potluck**

Sun. Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> 2011 following the 9:30 service. Diaconate will be serving Spanish hamburgers. Please bring a side dish or dessert to pass for an old fashioned potluck!

Also after the 9:30 service on Re-Union Sunday, the Christian Education Committee will be hosting a dunk tank, water balloon toss, some Minute-to-Win-It games, Plaster the Pastor & OTHERS - pie in the face, and more!

Feel free to dress in casual attire! Please utilize side-street and front parking. The parking lot will be partially blocked off for the festivities.

We can't wait to celebrate the new school year with you and your family! See you on the 11th!

(Tickets for the Plaster the Pastor & Others will be 1/\$1, 6/\$5 or an arm span of tickets/\$10. The money from this will be also be going toward the doors and Christian Home fundraiser.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
<b>4</b> <b>Worship Service 8:30 am</b> <b>Fellowship Hour 9:30 am</b>	<b>5</b> <b>Labor Day</b> <b>Last Day of Church Summer Office Hours</b>	<b>6</b> <b>Media Team 6:30 pm</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b> <b>8</b> <b>Women's Fellowship 11:00 am</b>	<b>2</b> <b>9</b>	<b>3</b> <b>10</b>
<b>11</b> <i>ReUnion Sunday</i> <b>Contemporary Service with Holy Communion 8:00 am</b> <b>First Day of Sunday School &amp; Fellowship Hour 8:30 am</b>  <b>Traditional Service with Holy Communion 9:30 am</b> <b>Silent Auction Ends</b> 	<b>12</b> <b>Trustees 6:30 pm</b>	<b>13</b> <b>Diaconate 6:00 pm</b>	<b>14</b> <b>Stewardship Meeting 6:30 pm at Jo's House</b>	<b>15</b> <b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>Dan Sanders and Emily Kniffen Wedding 1:30 pm</b> 	
<b>18</b> <b>Contemporary Service 8:00 am</b> <b>Sunday School and Fellowship Hour with Baby Care Kit Sale 8:30 am</b>  <b>Traditional Service 9:30 am</b>	<b>19</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	<b>20</b> <b>Council 6:30 pm</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>SHARE 8:30 am</b>	
<b>25</b> <b>Contemporary Service 8:00 am</b> <b>Sunday School and Fellowship Hour 8:30 am</b> <b>Traditional Service 9:30 am</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>Book Club 7:00 pm</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>Missions 5:30 pm at Church</b>	<b>30</b> <b>Community Table</b> <b>1st Shift 9:45 am-12:30pm</b> <b>2nd Shift 12:30pm-3:00pm</b> 	

***Official Fall Worship & Sunday School Schedule:***

"media/contemporary" Service: 8:00 am  
 Sunday School and Fellowship: 8:30 am—9:30 am  
 "traditional" Service: 9:30 am—10:30 am

***The fall worship schedule will start Sunday, September 11th ReUnion Sunday.***



**Labor Day is the last day of the summer schedule for the Church Office. Regular hours will resume the next week Monday September 12.**

***Monday—Friday 10:00 am—1:00 pm***





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**Return Service Requested**

***Love God's Creation - Share in Fellowship - Live Christ's Example***

**Community Table**  
**Friday, September 30**   
 Please volunteer to help serve the meal.  
 1<sup>st</sup> shift : 9:45 am – 12:00 pm  
 2<sup>nd</sup> shift: 12:30 pm – 3:00 pm  
 Sign up in the Fellowship Hall.

**Mission: 1**  
**11.1.11 – 11.11.11**  
**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
 One United Church on a shared mission for 11 powerful days

**Nursery not Staffed**  
 Parents of young children are welcome during both services to sit with their child in the nursery where they are able to hear the service while their child plays. The nursery is unstaffed at this time.




*"Freely you have received, freely give." - Matthew 10:8*

	<b><u>Deacon on Duty</u></b>	<b><u>Offering</u></b>
<b><u>September 4</u></b>	Duane Stelsel	Julie Bronkhorst
<b><u>September 11</u></b>	Angie Cook	Ed Firlus
<b><u>September 18</u></b>	Tim Bossenbroek	AJ Kahl
<b><u>September 25</u></b>	Linda Bresser	Melissa Brown

**Women's Fellowship Wants your Rummage**

We are planning another Rummage Sale in the month of Oct. Date to be announced later. Watch your bulletins for more details. We are looking for rummage and baked goods and helping hands for set up and take down. Proceeds will go to fund the Family Emergency Fund. Please contact Marilyn Whitting with any questions 324-4967

