

April 1, 2011



God is still speaking,

# Happenings

## From the Pastor's Desk...

John 3:21 (MSG)

*21 "But anyone working and living in truth and reality welcomes God-light so the work can be seen for the God-work it is."*

Some people can tell you stories about why a certain aspect of creation is meaningful for them. Perhaps the first flower that a classmate gave to them was a daisy, a rose, a tulip. My Mom always received my dandelions, sweet peas, black-eyed Susans, and Queen Anne's lace from the railroad tracks behind our house. I doubt they were her favorites but because I gave them to her, they became some of my favorites.



There is a creation attachment for which I have no explanation. This wild attraction to trees I had back when I loved horses at age five, that has continued to comfort me for the long haul of life. Well, I am hoping for a long haul; my recent birthday is just a reminder of that goal. Trees are comforting to me with leaves, without leaves, with needles, with flowers. Whether they are tall or short, skinny or fat, I love them. When you visit the pastor's office, you might notice some pictures

of trees. One is new; it changes as you walk by from summer, to autumn, to winter.

Our haven for worship, for weddings and funerals, our hide-away for study and discernment, is lost in the woods on Woodward. Don't get me wrong; I wouldn't change a thing about this park-like setting. I feel at home in its green, tree-lined solitude. I just wonder how we let others know the deeper meaning of this hidden spot on the planet. We have a "hello" website and a wonderful new flat screen to communicate our schedule, programs, and opportunities. As we continue to develop our hello through these avenues we also prepare ourselves for the subsequent conversations with each other at the soul level of life.

The green walls in my office and the trees on the walls will only go so far in telling you what is important to me. Only when we talk, when we offer our stories, our passions and pains, our hopes and dreams, will we come closer to the light of God in our midst. Only when we listen to each other

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## **Pastor's Message...from p. 1**

will the darkness of our individualism bring the light of Christian community. I am looking forward to hearing your life stories, your disappointments and your hope in God and the people of God. The light of our days is lasting longer as we journey deeper into spring and closer to one another in faith.

Come to a cottage meeting. Hear new stories from familiar friends. Form new friendships as you share God's place in your life.

*Pastor Louise*

## **CCB Camping Trip! August 5-7, 2011**

The CCB 11th annual camping trip is scheduled for the weekend of Friday Aug. 5th thru Sunday Aug. 7th. This year we are headed to the shores of Lake Huron up to Harrisville State Park. It has a beautiful beach and a short little walk into town for an ice cream cone. We have a great group of campers and it's always quite an experience! I hope you can join us! If you are new to camping, this is a great way to start. There are lots of helping hands and someone always has whatever you forgot. Please let me know if you are interested in going. Approximate cost per campsite for the weekend is \$56. If you decide to go up a day early it really makes the trip relaxing. Can't wait to hear from you. Thanks, Ranger Lee Maloney 248-813-8803.



**The 2010 Camping Group**

## **Green Screen Film Series**

### ***Dirty Business: "Clean Coal" and the Battle for Our Energy Future***

**7:00 p.m. ~ Wednesday ~ April 27**

'Dirty Business' is a documentary produced by the Center for Investigative Reporting that delves into the true cost of our dependence on coal for electricity in the age of climate change. Can coal ever really be made "clean"? If we were to try to wean ourselves off coal, how would we keep the lights on? Is renewable energy ready for prime time? Guided by Rolling Stone reporter Jeff Goodell, 'Dirty Business' seeks answers in a series of true world stories.

## ***Colony: The Endangered World of Bees***

**7:00 p.m. ~ Wednesday ~ May 25**

The unexplainable phenomenon known as Colony Collapse Disorder has left landscapes of empty beehives all across America, threatening not only the beekeeping industry but our food supply. As scientists and beekeepers search for the cause, 'Colony' captures the struggle within the beekeeping community to save the honeybee and themselves. 'Colony' documents a time of unprecedented crisis in the world of the honeybee through the eyes of veteran beekeeper, David Mendes, and Lance and Victor Seppi, two young brothers getting into beekeeping when most are getting out. Discussion following led by SE Michigan Beekeepers.



## ***Food Drive For Lighthouse of Oakland County***



During the season of Lent (now through Sunday, April 17), the Board of Outreach is collecting non-perishable foods such as canned fruits & vegetables, hearty soups, dried pasta, boxed cereals, canned meats, etc. No glass containers please. Items can be placed in the shopping cart in the Narthex.

Our Church's Wider Mission is one of the 5 all-church offerings. Envelopes will be in our Sunday bulletin on Easter, April 24th, to contribute for UCC Conferences, Wider Church Ministries, Justice and Witness ministries, etc. This especially important offering is collected at Easter Sunday service.



**CCB WOMEN**  
Present  
**“An Evening with Rev. Louise Ott”**



Wednesday, May 4, at CCB  
Join us as Louise shares some of her life  
experiences!  
Fellowship at 6:00 PM  
Dinner at 6:30 PM  
Cost - \$15  
Sign up starts April 10

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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**  
**CCB Women’s Fabulous Garden Tea**  
**Saturday afternoon, June 4**  
**Details to follow!**



## **New Monthly Feature in Happenings: “And Also With You”**

Beginning this month, Happenings will feature a monthly interview with our members, either individuals or couples, that answers some questions about their lives and participation in our church family. We will eventually get around to everybody, but we have decided to begin with one of the Happenings editors to show the rest of you how painless a process this is. We will mainly stick to the same basic question format and hope to run a photo or two of the interviewee(s) as well.

So meet Happenings co-editor Lisa Franks (at left of photo), and her spouse Mary Franks, the subjects of our very first interview.

### ***Tell us your full names.***

*Lisa Marie Franks*

*Mary Elizabeth Franks*

### ***How long have you been members of CCB-UCC?***

*Since November, 2008.*

### ***What brought you here?***

*We were looking for a church that we felt comfortable at. We were both raised Catholic, and have since moved on from the Catholic Church.*

### ***Do you have any other family members who attend this church? If so, who are they?***

*Gavin: our 7 year old son...who most of you know. :-)*

### ***What kind of work do you do?***

*Lisa is a Marketing Coordinator for Magna International, a Global Automotive Supplier. Mary is a Physical Therapist for St. John Home Care.*

### ***If you could change one thing about your life, what would it be? Why?***

*Neither of us would change a thing! :-)*

### ***What do you draw energy from?***

*Both of us draw our energy from our son— Gavin. He is very energetic and we really enjoy being with him and having a lot of family time during the week and weekends.*

### ***Tell us something about yourself that would surprise people.***

*Lisa— I am a cake decorator by night. I took a cake decorating class 10 years ago, just to humor my older sister— and I have been decorating cakes ever since.*

*Mary— I am very interested in learning how to ride a motorcycle. It has been on my “bucket list” for as far back as I can remember.*



### ***Do you have a favorite musician or band? Who? What is it that you like about them?***

*Both— Imogen Heap. She is a one woman band who writes, composes, engineers, and mixes all her music from her home in the UK. We had the privilege to meet her last year.*

### ***Tell us two more things you'd like your church family to know about you.***

*We love to camp. We spend most weekends from mid April to mid November in our camper. We have a dog named Emily. She is a Border Collie / Basenji Mix.*

## **Growth Committee News**

Growth Committee is contacting some of our established members who have not been attending recently to let them know the good news that we have a wonderful new settled pastor, and would love for them to come and meet Rev. Louise Ott. We continue to follow up with visitors as well; you can help by introducing yourself and making them feel welcome whenever they visit.

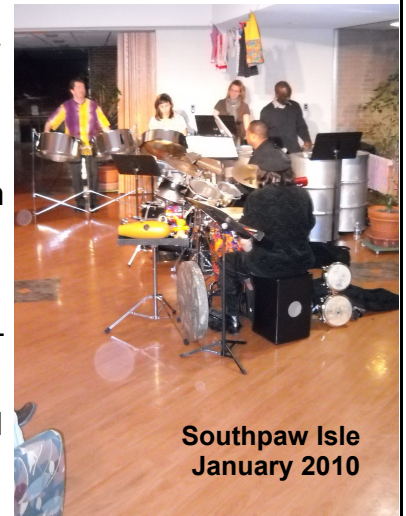
We are also designing and printing a general business card for the church, so that if you have friends you'd like to invite, you will have a piece of written information with our church's basic information, address, phone number and website to distribute.

Growth Committee chair John Benyo has volunteered to be responsible for the church Public Relations, so if you or your group have events you would like to publicize to the community at large, please let John know. At least a month lead time is generally necessary for press releases, advertising, and web listings, so please remember to allow enough time.

## **Red Comma Café News**

Red Comma Café has netted a total profit of about \$350 on the last two concerts (Southpaw Isle and Danny Schmidt). We are in the process of discussing ideas to tailor the concerts to be more geared to direct fundraising efforts for our outreach partners, such as Lighthouse and the Ruth Ellis Center. We are also looking into getting a separate Red Comma website.

We will be sponsoring three to four Red Comma concerts over the next year. We may be losing some committee members this year, so could really use a couple more sets of hands. If you are interested in becoming a part of the Red Comma team (a sub-committee of Growth), please contact Toni or Kevin Wilson; the committee will next meet on April 17 at 11:15 AM.



Southpaw Isle  
January 2010

## **CCB Goals and Commitments 2007-2010**

- 1. We intend to become more intentional about living out our faith by reaching out to each other and through our mission in the region, nation and world.**
  - 2. We intend to become more inclusive, open and affirming in our approach to ALL people regardless of age, gender, race, nationality, ethnic background and sexual orientation.**
  - 3. We intend to become better stewards of the environmental and economic resources which are a vital part of God's creation.**
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# April, 2011

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS for our Congregation—For more detailed calendar information including meeting rooms and outside groups using CCB, please visit the website [ccbucc.org/calendar](http://ccbucc.org/calendar)

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<p>27 March 9AM Adult Choir 9:30AM Youth Choir 10:30AM <b>Worship</b> 11:30AM Brunch Bash</p>	<p>28 7PM <b>Cottage Meeting @ Maxfields'</b></p>	<p>29 <b>Happenings Printing April Issue</b> 7PM <b>Cottage Meeting @ Telliers'</b></p>	<p>30 <b>Happenings Mailing April Issue</b> 12PM DMA Covenant Team 7PM <b>Cottage Meeting @ Parkers'</b></p>	<p>31 5 PM Better Balance Event Prep 7PM <b>Cottage Meeting @ K. Brooker's</b></p>	<p>1 April 11 AM Better Balance Workshop &amp; Lunch</p>	<p>2 10AM Cox Funeral 1PM CE Interview 3PM CE Mtg</p>
<p>3 9AM Adult Choir 9:30AM Youth Choir 10:30AM <b>Worship/w Communion</b> 2PM <b>Cottage Meeting @ Hills'</b></p>	<p>4 4:30 PM MAT Meeting 7:30 PM Council</p>	<p>5 2PM <b>Cottage Meeting @ Hugels'</b></p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 1PM <b>Cottage Meeting @ Trainor's</b></p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 9AM Rummage Sale Set-Up Begins</p>
<p>10 <b>Rummage Sale Week</b> 12PM Ingathering</p> <p>9 AM Adult Choir 9:15 CE Meeting 9:30AM Youth Choir 10:30AM <b>Worship</b></p>	<p>11 9AM Sorting/Pricing 1 PM Staff Meeting</p> <p>7:30 PM Pastor Support Ministry</p>	<p>12 9AM Sorting/Pricing</p>	<p>13 4PM Early Entry 5-8PM Sale</p> <p>5PM Confirmation Class</p>	<p>14 11AM-7PM Rummage Sale</p>	<p>15 10AM Clean-Up</p>	<p>16 9AM Clean-Up &amp; Charity Pick-Up</p>
<p>17 <b>Palm Sunday</b> 9 AM Adult Choir 9:30AM Youth Choir 10:30 AM <b>Worship</b> 11:15AM RCC Mtg. 11:30AM Brunch Bash 11:30AM Equal Exchange Sale</p>	<p>18 7PM Boards &amp; Committees</p>	<p>19 11AM Piano Tuning</p>	<p>20 7PM <b>Cottage Meeting @ Driscolls'</b></p>	<p>21 <b>Maundy Thursday</b> 7PM <b>Worship w/Communion</b></p>	<p>22 <b>Good Friday Earth Day</b> <b>Happenings Deadline-May Issue</b> 7pm <b>Worship-Tenebrae Svc.</b></p> <p><b>Office Closed-Noon</b></p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 <b>Easter Sunday</b> Our Church's Wider Mission Offering 9 AM Adult Choir 9:30AM Youth Choir 10:30AM <b>Worship w/ Communion</b></p>	<p>25 <b>Holiday-Office Closed</b></p>	<p>26 <b>Happenings Printing-May Issue</b></p>	<p>27 <b>Happenings Mailing-May Issue</b> 5PM Confirmation Class 7PM Green Screen Film-Dirty Business</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 7PM <b>Cottage Meeting @ Rupps'</b></p>	<p>30 DMA Spring Meeting @ St. James UCC-Dearborn</p>

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*Scripture: Philippians 4:8-9*

**Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.**

**from the New Revised Standard Version**