



God is still speaking,

Happenings

From the Pastor's Desk... *Body and Spirit*

Which is more important to you the spiritual or the physical? For thousands of years philosophers and theologians of every tradition have considered, argued, insisted, and waffled on this dual nature of ours. Some touted that the body is evil and the spirit is all goodness. Others have insisted that the body is pure when not lead into temptation by the spirit. Either/or thinking usually leads us all to a dead-end alley with a dumpster parked in plain sight. No matter what you dump you are not free to get any further on your journey. Simply placing the body or the spirit in bondage as the scapegoat doesn't survive the "abundant life" test.

"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."
John 10:10b (NRSV)

Most who work closely with patients and families in a medical context espouse the wisdom of caring for both the body and the spirit. Each affects the other. I have had a lot of time to ponder these healthcare professionals during the 62 days since March that Mom has been either in the hospital or in sub-acute care. The majority of the personnel delivering meal trays, delivering their surgical results, and delivering nursing care seem clear that the spirit in which we live and the health of the body are of equal import.



So one day we encountered the staff who clean hospital rooms between patients. This particular gentleman was overtly cheerful and friendly. I have often heard him giving directions to a wandering family member in search of a patient room, the right set of elevators, or a restroom. So while he cleaned the other half of Mom's room, I asked what he did when he wasn't working at the hospital. He's a race car driver. His sponsor is Red Bull. He makes lots of money when he wins and not so much when he doesn't. So the hospital cleaning position gives him steady income, a great retire-

ment, and outstanding healthcare. His racing money allows him to buy his dad a new truck. And while he was finishing his story two co-workers came to find out if he was still "happy." Evidently his good mood is a frequent event that brings gentle harassment. But yes, he has crashed and has spent as long as nine months recovering in the hospital. He is still happy.

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How do we get to the place where the journey of life in our bodies and spirits is equally influencing our state of being? Our senses bring us blessings abundant especially in this season of floral colors, fragrant trees, fresh fruits and vegetables, bird songs, and gentle breezes.

Our spirits connect to others through conversation, common objectives, the collective connection of all life in creation. In our congregation we seek to honor both the bodies and souls of one another. Whether we agree on theology or not, we add together our bodies and spirits to become a community. As a congregation we carry each other's burdens and celebrate the joys of living which reside in both our bodies and our spirits. With our voices we give support to faint hearts. With our hands we bring food and shelter to bodies in need. These are our living prayers which we add to the prayer time of our Sunday gatherings.

As the summer continues for one more precious month before the school bells figuratively ring, I pray that we will keep our bodies and souls connected and positively influencing each other. And I look forward to each Sunday when our bodies and spirits gather together to sing, to pray, to ponder, to laugh, to cry, to be community.

Joy for the Journey,

Pastor Louise



“When you wish upon a star...”

Now, sing the rest! CCB is star studded and our auction on October 1 is your chance to let your star shine. Your auction committee will turn your talent, hobby, special experience or skill into an item up for bid. It is our dream to have an evening of fun, food and fellowship as we build the financial health of CCB. Participate in “CCB’s Got Talent” with a quick call to Frank or Carol Driscoll, Susan McBride, or Susan Hugel.

**The
Red
Comma
Café**



08.27.2011
six-thirty pm

*a fundraiser
for the*

**Ruth
Ellis
Center**

www.ruthelliscenter.org

*suggested
tax-deductible
donation*

\$15



**proudly
presents...**



**CHRIS
BATHGATE**

and his band

in concert

with special guest Greg Wilson

**"Anonymity is fleeting when you
have the goods, and Chris Bathgate
definitely has the goods..."**

Treble Magazine

**Help support the Ruth Ellis Center!
Concert will be in the garden, weather permitting**

In Remembrance of Rev. Chuck Erickson

Rev. Chuck Erickson, our senior minister at CCB from the 70's to 1984, died at age 86, on July 4th after a brief illness. Several current and former members of CCB were in attendance at his memorial service on July 9th at the Bronson Place retirement home in Kalamazoo. Also present and giving Words of Remembrance and the Benediction was Verne Arens, who was our associate/youth minister for 7 years during Chuck's ministry at CCB. Verne has just retired from many years of ministry at the Little River UCC Church in Annandale, VA.

Chuck's wife, Jane, and their three surviving children, their spouses, and six grandchildren were there. All those in attendance pretty well filled a large meeting room, a testament to a beloved and important person in many lives. The display of important memories included a notebook of Chuck's monthly articles for *The Eccentric* on matters of morality, spirituality and religion. There was also a notebook or two containing all of Chuck's sermons given in our pulpit. CCB had been an important part of his life.

Along with Verne Arens, the minister of Chuck and Jane's UCC church in Kalamazoo officiated at the memorial service, which was a personal, thoughtful, respectful and sometimes humorous celebration of Chuck's life. Chuck had selected the scripture, written comments on it, and had also chosen the hymns, which made the service extremely personal.

Chuck's obituary said that, along with his service to many churches, he also held administrative positions in the UCC, was active in interfaith organizations, and taught religion at the college level. Ahead of his times in many ways, Chuck campaigned for social issues such as civil rights, gender equality and ecumenicity.

For those who will want to offer her their sympathy, Jane Erickson's address is 1700 Bronson Way, #220, Kalamazoo, MI 49009.

Marty Bjorkman

!! Help the Happenings Go Paperless !!

If you're still receiving this newsletter via snail mail, please contact the church office (248-646-4511) with your email address so we can get you switched to the E-Version. It saves the resources and costs of printing and mailing, as well as the time of preparation. And you'll get it faster too! We hope to have everyone switched over by the September issue. Of course if you don't have email access we'll still mail you a copy via First Class Mail if you call and request it by August 29th.

PLEASE NOTE - The deadline for the September issue is 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 24th.

CCB,

Thank you for allowing me to have my recital in our beautiful church. It meant a lot to me to have something so special to me be presented in a place I love and was always welcomed in.

*Thank You,
Emelia Aukee*

It is a long-standing tradition at CCB to have a Blessing of the Animals one Sunday during the summer months. But Rev. Louise Ott had never done this before, not being a part of her previous tradition. Our loving pets made her feel most welcome for her first Blessing of the Animals, which was held on Sunday, June 19 in our gardens.



Our July interview is with Carrie Tyler Oakwood.

How long have you been a member at CCB/UCC?

Let me see...since 1996.

What brought you to this church?

After I had Dustin (my oldest son), I was ready to go back to church, and I was born & raised in the UCC. I drove by one day, and someone was playing guitar in the garden. It might have been Dan Beabout. I was really impressed with that.

Do any other family members attend this church? If so, who?

My husband Chris, my son Dustin, daughter Jayne, twins Sam and Dan, and my parents did for a couple years; Lee and Jean Tyler.

What kind of work do you do? What attracted you to this type of work?

I'm a homemaker, I teach, I participate in Christian education, I garden obsessively and I write.

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

I wish I would have learned how to cook at a younger age and bought better pots & pans and equipment.

What do you draw energy from?

As I approach my middle years, it's solitude. In the chaos of kids, parents, and husband, solitude keeps me sane.

Tell us something about yourself that would surprise people.

I trapped wild boar hogs in the Great Smokey Mountain National Park as part of an internship one summer. If I could pull it off, I'd go live as a hermit in the Upper Peninsula for a year or two.

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

It used to be U2 but it's not so much anymore....there're so many...I've been listening to a lot of classical music lately and I love it. Neil Young was my childhood favorite, but now I'd have to say it's Mike Scott and the Waterboys.

What is your favorite book? What did you love about it?

The J.R.R. Tolkein books, Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit...I read them in college and it opened up the world of mythological themes to me, and that's guided me a lot in my life.

Where do you see God at work in your every day life?

In my garden, in my children, my neighbors, and in all the broken things in our country and world, the constant process of redemption, renewal, and new life. Beginnings follow endings.

Tell us two more things you'd like us to know about you .

I love winter a lot more than summer, I love to downhill ski and other winter sports, but I also love hiking, sleeping outside and I could play in the waves for hours.



Carrie Oakwood with Jhozu, a friend she made on a CCB-sponsored trip to Mexico in July, 2008.

August, 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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
31 July Butterfly Sunday 10:30AM Worship 11:30AM CE Board Meeting	1 August 7:30PM Council	2	3	4	5 CCB Campers to Harrisville (thru Sunday) Office Closed	6
7 10:30AM Worship w/ Communion	8	9	10 6PM Vacation Bible School	11	12 Office Closed	13 9AM Community Garden Work Day
14 10:30AM Worship	15 7PM Boards & Committees	16	17	18	19 Office Closed	20
21 10:30AM Worship 11:45AM Comm. Garden Team Mtg. 11:45AM RCC Team Meeting	22	23 7:30PM Board of Worship Mtg.	24 Happenings Deadline Sept. Issue 1PM Staff Meeting 6PM Vacation Bible School	25	26 Office Closed	27 6:30PM Red Comma Café fundraiser for Ruth Ellis Ctr. - Chris Bathgate
28 10:30AM Worship 11:30AM CCB Brunch Bash	29	30 Happenings Printing-Sept. Issue	31 Happenings Mailing-Sept. Issue	1 September	2 Office Closed Labor Day	3 9AM Community Garden Work Day

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Scripture: Leviticus 19:18 (MSG)
*“Don’t seek revenge or carry a grudge
against any of your people. Love your
neighbor as yourself. I am GOD.”*

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.